

NIHR Global Research Unit on Global Surgery

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16<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Re: SurgWeek-2 Study**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you regarding study approvals for the SurgWeek-2 study. To participate in the study collaborators must ensure that the study is registered and approved with respect to all applicable local and/or national regulations.

For hospitals who participated in GlobalSurg-CovidSurg Week study this is a direct methodological successor. Like its predecessor, it (i) makes no change to clinical pathways; (ii) collects only anonymised data from routine records; and (iii) limits follow-up to 30 days without additional patient contact. SurgWeek-2 broadens scope from COVID-specific exposure to standardised postoperative complications (Clavien–Dindo) and quality metrics, maintaining the same low-risk profile while enhancing utility for service evaluation and benchmarking.

Hospital ethics committees may wish to consider their approvals given the similarities of the studies, which include but are not limited to:

- Both studies are coordinated by the same research group (NIHR Global Surgery unit based at the University of Birmingham)
- Both studies have similar primary and secondary outcomes – 30-day complications and mortality
- The principles of the data collection are the same in all studies. They are both observational studies which do not require any changes to normal patient care. No additional tests or follow-up are required in any of these studies.
- The data collection platform is the same in both studies. Data can be anonymised and uploaded to a secure, online REDCap database. The same REDCap server will be used for SurgWeek-2 as for the GlobalSurg-CovidSurg week study.

The differences between the SurgWeek-2 study and the GlobalSurg-CovidSurg week study include:

- Data collection in SurgWeek-2 will be expanded to include further data points



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- The focus of GlobalSurg-CovidSurg week study was in the context of a COVID-19 pandemic, whereas SurgWeek-2, at the time of writing will not take part during a global pandemic

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries through [surgweek@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:surgweek@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

Yours faithfully,



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