CONSULTANCY
Terms of Reference

The consultancy is ordered by:

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Applications to be sent to: deay@who.int

Deadline for application: 15 November 2019

1. Purpose of the Consultancy

WHO seeks a senior expert consultant to support the efforts to

1. perform statistical analysis of the Antibiotics in childhood diarrhoea (ABCD) study as per the ABCD statistical analysis plan (SAP).
2. Coordinate with the WHO staff and the PIs of the ABCD trial to develop final models and tables as requested.

2. Background

ABCD (AntiBiotics for Children with high-risk Diarrhoea) is a research project on the management of children with diarrhoea, coordinated by the MCA department at the WHO headquarters in Geneva. The aim of the ABCD trial is to test if child mortality for diarrhoeal diseases can be reduced by treating those at highest risk with suitable antibiotics. The trial is implemented in three Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan) and four African countries (Mali, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania). Within each of these countries, there is a research institution and team of researchers, who are implementing the trial as subcontractors to the WHO.

The data collection which began in May 2017 will be complete in Feb 2020, when the database will be locked.

3. Scope of work performed

- Review the statistical analysis plan, the ABCD database and develop a data set of required variables for analysis.
- Liaise with RTI, the external database managers for the ABCD trial to obtain an analysable dataset. Dataset to be agreed with WHO and the SAP team
- Compile data summaries and interact with RTI/ sites as needed to resolve data queries that arise during the analysis. While data cleaning is expected to be complete in large part, there could be minor errors at the stage of analysis that need clarification and correction
- Analyse the dataset as per the SAP developed by the ABCD PIs and produce the required tables. The development of the final tables will be an iterative process involving the WHO and the ABCD PI group representative. Data summaries to be organised on request.
- The analysis will be done initially by 2 randomly allocated groups A and B as specified in the SAP
- During this three-month consultancy, the consultant will actively communicate with liaise with the WHO team and the ABCD PI group.
- Participate in the unblinding once the result structure is agreed upon.
• Produce a final ABCD result table as per the SAP and in communication with the WHO team.
• Structure the results section of the main trial paper for publication with support from WHO and sites.

4. Expected Deliverables

1. Final analysable dataset
2. Data analysis as per the ABCD SAP in consultation WHO ABCD team
3. Results section of the manuscript in consultation with the WHO and SAP team

5. Technical Supervision

The selected Consultant will work under the supervision of Dr Ayesha DeCosta of the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Ageing.

6. Timelines

Start date: 1 February 2020
End date: 30 May 2020

7. Work effort

60 working days in the above time interval

8. Specific requirements

- Qualifications required:
  • A PhD in epidemiology/ biostats/ public health
  • Strong data analytical skills and experience

- Experience required:
  • At least 5 years of experience with clinical trial data analysis.

- Skills/Technical skills and knowledge:
  • Conversant with SAS/ STATA
  • Experience with executing SAP

- Language requirements:
  • Strong written and oral communication skills in English

9. Place of assignment

The consultant is free to work from anywhere but will be required to report to the supervisor the first week and last week of period in Geneva, Switzerland.

10. Remuneration

Remuneration will be based on WHO standard daily rates for consultants commensurate with the level expertise and experience required which varies from USD 350, 400 or 450 USD/ day. Payments will only be made as per submission of satisfactory deliverable.
11. Travel

The Consultant is expected to travel for taking up assignment as mentioned in point 8.

12. Deadline for applications is 15 November 2019

13. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

In the event that your candidature is retained for an interview, you will be required to provide, in advance, a scanned copy of the degree(s)/diploma(s)/certificate(s) required for this consultancy. WHO only considers higher educational qualifications obtained from an institution accredited/recognized in the World Higher Education Database (WHED), a list updated by the International Association of Universities (IAU)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The list can be accessed through the link: http://www.whed.net/.

In case a consultant is unable to perform the work due to illness or other personal circumstances, WHO may grant the consultant an additional period in which to complete the work (without any additional compensation) or terminate the contract in accordance with its terms.

14. Submission of Application

Interested applicants with the required essential qualifications and experience should submit a:

- cover letter of interest,
- their curriculum vitae and
- copies of their qualifications

to WHO no later than 15 November 2019 at 17.30:00 hours CET (Geneva) time (“the Closing Date for Submission of applications”),

by E-mail to: deay@who.int