

Ethical considerations for the role of a statistician in medical research

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Abstract

Establishing an appropriate client-statistical consultant relationship is key to achieving excellence and insuring adherence to ethical and legal standards in the medical research process.

Despite encouragement from leading medical journals and official institutions to follow guidelines and codes of practice, widespread misconceptions about the proper use of statistics abound. Failures properly to apply sound statistical principles are compounded by ethical and legal breaches and lead to enhanced risks.

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