

# World Health Organization (WHO) Calls for Publication of All Clinical Trial Results - Not Just Favorable Ones

By [Barbara Minton](#)

Theme: [Science and Medicine](#)

Global Research, April 22, 2015

[Natural Society](#) 21 April 2015

In a strong and surprising action, the World Health Organization (WHO) made it crystal clear that researchers have an ethical mandate to publish all clinical trial results, regardless of their outcomes. This extends to past trials as well as future, and is the latest move in the battle for full disclosure.

According to its Statement on Public Disclosure of Clinical Trials Results, the WHO [is calling for](#):

- Results from clinical trials to be publicly reported within 12 months of the trial's end
- Results from previously unpublished trials to be made public
- Calls on organizations and governments to implement measures to achieve this

The action may put a stop to the practice of cherry picking outcomes for public disclosure. An [investigation](#) published in March found that during the following 12 months after completion of industry funded trials, **only 17% of trial outcomes had been reported.**

This number increased to just 41% after five years. Results for the trials funded by the National Institutes of Health produced only 8% disclosure after 12 months, and 38% after five years. **It is logical to assume that the results presented to the public were supportive of study hypotheses.**

The WHO's statement comes as welcome news for consumers of medical care, and to the doctors that treat them. It may open the door for informed decision making about procedures and treatments. As it now, people were being blindly prescribed drugs and other treatments that have been the subject of research, but the outcome of that research has been withheld.

**Read: [Millions Affected as Scientists Hide Medical Test Results](#)**

[Dr. Ben Goldacre](#), author and co-founder of the AllTrials campaign, said:

"This is a very positive, clear statement from WHO and it is very welcome. But

withheld trials are already in breach of multiple existing codes, declarations, and even laws: delivering change will require more than good intentions. We need individual accountability, from robust public audit. Only this can show us exactly which researchers, companies, institutions, funders and treatments are the best -and the worst - for withheld data. With this individually accountable data we can finally reward good practice, learn from the best performers, and ensure that those withholding information are held fully to account.”

The WHO’s statement came after hundreds of individuals and organizations called for full disclosure of clinical trial results. However, the WHO has no legislative power. It will be the purview of companies, regulators, legislators, and those providing study funding to implement what the WHO is calling for.

[Richard Stephens](#), cancer patient and clinical trial participant, said:

“The call from the WHO for old information to be shared is hugely welcome. Patients who choose to take part in clinical trials believe that by doing so, we are helping other patients in the future. We do not expect the knowledge to be kept secret or the help for others to be denied. It is immoral to recruit patients for clinical trials and then not report or share the results. We hope the call from the WHO will be taken up by everyone who can help uncover hidden information.”

This is good news, but look for fierce opposition from much of the pharma-medical establishment before any of this becomes confirmed policy.

Follow us: [@naturalsociety on Twitter](#) | [NaturalSociety on Facebook](#)

The original source of this article is [Natural Society](#)  
Copyright © [Barbara Minton](#), [Natural Society](#), 2015

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[Barbara Minton](#)**

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)