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Advancing hybrid trials: Medidata contributes global perspectives and insights to new SCRI whitepaper in Singapore

November 17, 2026 | News

The whitepaper assesses Singaporeâ??s readiness for decentralised trial elements and recommends national guidance, shared infrastructure and workforce development to support scalable adoption

Medidata, a Dassault Systèmes brand and provider of clinical trial solutions to the life sciences industry, has contributed insights to a newly published whitepaper by the Singapore Clinical Research Institute (SCRI). The paper, titled “Advancing Clinical Trials with Decentralised Elements in Singapore: Opportunities, Readiness, and Scalable Adoption,” assesses Singapore’s readiness for clinical trials with decentralised elements and outlines a roadmap for their responsible, scalable adoption.

Drawing on its experience supporting more than 42,000 global trials and 13 million patients, Medidata contributed global perspectives and practical insights to the whitepaper’s assessment of Singapore’s current ecosystem readiness. The paper concludes that while Singapore is well-positioned for selective adoption of decentralised elements in hybrid trials, achieving system-wide readiness requires moving from ad-hoc institutional arrangements to a standardised, scalable national operating model.

“Decentralised elements are increasingly incorporated into global protocol design, but their adoption must be grounded in fit-for-purpose operational models, robust data governance, and scalable technology,” said Edwin Ng, General Manager, Asia Pacific, Medidata. “Drawing on Medidata’s experience across thousands of global studies, our unified platform technology can support connected workflows and auditable data integrity in trials with decentralised elements, alongside appropriate validation and operational oversight. We are proud to contribute these insights to SCRI’s whitepaper and to support sponsors, investigator sites, and patients in delivering safe, more accessible, and high-quality clinical research across Singapore and the broader region.”

To support Singapore’s transition from pilot implementations to scalable hybrid maturity, the whitepaper outlines several core national recommendations:

- Frameworks and guidance: Establish national guidance on decentralised elements and define clear Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) data protection standards tailored to distributed trial data flows.

- Infrastructure and services: Build a national infrastructure programme supporting decentralised elements and establish a Pre-Qualified Vendor and Service Registry.
- Ecosystem readiness: Strengthen Ethics Committee procedures, launch national training and certification for decentralised trial activities, and monitor implementation through performance dashboards.

Unlocking value for Asia-Pacific clinical research

Through this collaboration, Medidata provided evidence-based insights to address bottlenecks across the clinical research ecosystem:

- Accelerating feasibility and speed: The whitepaper highlights how standardised hybrid delivery models can improve operational predictability and support faster recruitment by reducing avoidable handoffs, site bottlenecks and rework.
- Unified technology foundation: Medidata highlighted how integrated platforms connecting eConsent, electronic clinical outcome assessments (eCOA), sensor data and trial-supply management can support consistent data flows and auditable data integrity when appropriately configured, validated and governed, in line with ICH E6(R3) expectations.
- Regional hub capability: The paper details a vision for Singapore as an Asia-Pacific “hub-and-spoke” coordinator, enabling local investigators and institutions to anchor protocol governance and data oversight while participant activities may extend regionally under appropriate local regulatory, data protection and oversight arrangements.

Singapore has established strong foundations in clinical research; the opportunity now is to build on these strengths through greater ecosystem collaboration that enables the appropriate use of decentralised