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IRB Purpose-

The role of an IRB is to review all proposed research involving human subjects to ensure that subjects are treated ethically and that their rights and welfare are adequately protected.

IRBs are often composed of faculty members from disciplines in which research involving human subjects is integral to that discipline's work, researchers whose primary interests are non-scientific, as sometimes members from the community.

According to federal guidelines, research activities involving the use of human subjects are to be reviewed and approved by the IRB before data collection can begin. Investigators may not solicit subject participation or begin data collection until they have received written approval from the IRB.

Types of review-

Exempt review

Studies are reviewed by the IRB Chair or a qualified member of the IRB. This This type of review is used for studies that meet exemption categories (e.g., Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices; Research involving the use of educational tests, survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior, unless information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects).

Expedited review

Studies are reviewed by the IRB Chair or a qualified member of the IRB or the full committee. This type of review is carried out for studies which involve minimal risk to subjects and fit into an expedited review category (e.g., Prospective collection of biological specimens for research purposes by noninvasive means; Collection of data from voice, video, digital, or image recordings made for research purposes).

Full-committee review

This type of review is carried out for studies that pose greater than minimal risk to subjects. Many IRBs meet regularly (monthly) throughout the year. Researchers should refer to the meeting schedule for meeting dates and times. There is usually a deadline for submitting applications (e.g., at least 12 business days) prior to the next scheduled IRB meeting. Principal investigators and co-investigators may be asked to attend the IRB meeting to answer any questions that the IRB has.

Other-

Federal regulations require researchers and IRB members to disclose conflicts of interest (real or perceived).

Treat all proposals and inquires confidentially.

Federal regulations require researchers to complete online human subjects training.

For further information, refer to (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/hs/index.htm)