

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

Criteria for Expedited Review by the Research Ethics Committee (REC)

Research that can be considered to present minimal risk to subjects, is eligible for expedited review. Minimal risk means that the risk of harm anticipated in the proposed research is no greater than that ordinarily encountered in daily life, or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests.

Categories of new and continuing research that may be reviewed by the REC through an expedited review procedure (as revised by Office of Protection from Research Risks, USA, 11/98).

- 1 Clinical studies of drugs and medical devices only when condition (a) or (b) is met.**
 - (a) Research on drugs for which an investigational new drug application is not required. (Note: Research on marketed drugs that significantly increases the risks or decreases the acceptability of the risks associated with the use of the product is not eligible for expedited review.)
 - (b) Research on medical devices for which (i) an investigational device exemption application is not required; or (ii) the medical device is cleared/approved for marketing and the medical device is being used in accordance with its cleared/approved labeling.

- 2 Collection of blood samples by finger stick, heel stick, ear stick, or venipuncture as follows:**
 - (a) from healthy, non pregnant adults who weigh at least 110 pounds. For these subjects, the amounts drawn may not exceed 550 ml in an 8 week period and collection may not occur more frequently than 2 times per week; or
 - (b) from other adults and children, considering the age, weight and health of the subjects, the collection procedure, the amount of blood to be collected, and the frequency with which it will be collected. For these subjects, the amount drawn may not exceed the lesser of 50 ml or 3 ml per kg in an 8 week period and collection may not occur more frequently than 2 times per week.

- 3 Prospective collection of biological specimens for research purposes by noninvasive means.**
 - (a) hair and nail clippings in a nondisfiguring manner;
 - (b) deciduous teeth at time of exfoliation or if routine patient care indicates a need for extraction;
 - (c) permanent teeth if routine patient care indicates a need for extraction;
 - (c) excreta and external secretions (including sweat);
 - (d) Uncannulated saliva collected either in an unstimulated fashion or stimulated by chewing gumbase or wax or by applying a dilute citric solution on the tongue;
 - (e) placenta removed at delivery;
 - (f) amniotic fluid obtained at the time of rupture of the membrane prior to, or during, the labour;
 - (g) supra- and subgingival dental plaque and calculus, provided the collection procedure is not more invasive than routine prophylactic scaling of the teeth, and the process is accomplished in accordance with accepted prophylactic techniques;
 - (h) mucosal and skin cells collected by buccal scraping or swab, skin swab, or mouth washings;
 - (i) sputum collected after saline mist nebulisation.

- 4 Collection of data through noninvasive procedures (not involving general anesthesia or sedation) routinely employed in clinical practice, excluding procedures involving x-rays or microwaves. Where medical devices are employed, they must be cleared/approved for marketing. (Studies intended to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the medical device are not generally eligible for expedited review, including studies of cleared medical devices for new indications.)

Examples

- (a) physical sensors that are applied either to the surface of the body or at a distance and do not involve input of significant amounts of energy into the subject or an invasion of the subject's privacy;
 - (b) weighing or testing sensory acuity;
 - (c) magnetic resonance imaging;
 - (d) Electrocardiography, electroencephalography, thermography, detection of naturally occurring radioactivity, electroretinography, ultrasound, diagnostic infrared imaging, doppler blood flow, and echocardiography;
 - (e) moderate exercise, muscular strength testing, body composition assessment, and flexibility testing where appropriate given the age, weight, and health of the individual.
- 5 Research involving materials (data, documents, records, or specimens) that have been collected, or will be collected solely for non research purposes (such as medical treatment or diagnosis).
 - 6 Collection of data from voice, video, digital, or image recordings made for research purposes.
 - 7 Research on individual or group characteristics or behaviour (including, but not limited to, research on perception, cognition, motivation, identity, language, communication, cultural beliefs or practices, and social behaviour) or research employing survey, interview, oral history, focus group, program evaluation, human factors evaluation, or quality assurance methodologies.
 - 8 Continuing review of research previously approved by the convened REC as follows:
 - (a) where (i) the research is permanently closed to the enrollment of new subjects; (ii) all subjects have completed all research-related interventions; and (iii) the research remains active only for long-term follow-up of subjects; or
 - (b) where no subjects have been enrolled and no additional risks have been identified; or
 - (c) where the remaining research activities are limited to data analysis.
 - 9 Continuing review of research, not conducted under an investigational new drug application or investigational device exemption where categories two (2) through eight (8) do not apply but the REC has determined and documented at a convened meeting that the research involves no greater than minimal risk and no additional risks have been identified.