

IRBs in the Academic Setting

Joan B. Cobb Pettit, JD, MA
Exec. Director, JHSPH IRB

Disclaimer

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Requirements for an Academic Research Institution

- FWA is a promise by an Institution to the DHHS/OHRP to comply with human subjects research (HSR) protections regulations.
- Required of institutions (Universities) that receive federal dollars for HSR
- Reviewing IRBs (internal and external) must be registered

What is Required for the FWA?

- Institutional Official overseeing HSR
- All HSR must have IRB oversight
- All investigators must have HSR training
- Must have written policies and procedures governing IRB operations and HSR activities

IRB (Office) Role

- Determine if the activity is Human Subjects Research
- Determine if the University is “engaged”
(<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/guidance/guidance-on-engagement-of-institutions/index.html>)
- If HSR, and employee/agent is “engaged”, must submit to IRB
- IRB will triage to Exempt, Expedited, or Convened Review

But it's a little more complicated....

WHAT MUST INVESTIGATORS SUBMIT TO THE JHU IRBs?

(Faculty; students follow divisional requirements)

Does your study involve data or specimens from or about individual living people?

YES

NO

Are you or your team doing any of the following:

- Formative/pilot work collecting private information* from individuals
- Formative/pilot work involving vulnerable populations (JHU students or employees, minors, adults lacking capacity, sex workers, etc.)
- Interacting with or obtaining consent from participants, or
- Accessing or analyzing identifiable** data or specimens, or
- Receiving federal funding as the primary recipient?

YES

NO



SUBMIT TO IRB

Including:

Publicly available data
HIPAA limited data sets
Public health surveillance
Key informant research
Data Coordinating Centers
and biorepositories

Does your study involve de-identified clinical data from Johns Hopkins Medicine?

YES

NO



STOP: Do Not submit to IRB

Not HSR**.

Does the research involve only deceased individuals with data originating from a “covered entity” governed by HIPAA?

YES

NO



SUBMIT TO IRB



STOP: Do Not Submit to IRB
Not HSR***

***Private information** includes information about behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place, and information that has been provided for specific purposes by an individual and that the individual can reasonably expect will not be made public (e.g., a medical record).

**Data are Identifiable if:

- They include “private information for which the identity of the subject is or may readily be ascertained by the investigator or associated with the biospecimen.” (45 CFR 46.102(e)(5)). **Data are also considered identifiable if the identify of the participant is coded, but you or your team has access to the identifiers.**
- Under HIPAA, includes one or more of 18 listed identifiers (Protected Health Information).

***Not HSR means that it does not meet the definition of humans subjects research

“Research means a systematic investigation, **including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.”**

If unsure, you should submit to your JHU IRB for a determination as to whether or not your project is HSR.

Collaborators?

- The Single IRB Policy
- International studies and local IRB approval
- Clinical Trial Complexities (data coordinating centers, safety monitoring, clinicaltrials.gov posting, consent form postings, etc.)

Ancillary Reviews

- Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T)
- Biosafety
- Conflict of Interest
- Radiation
- Permissions from Data Sources
- Data Use Agreements

Questions?

- *Contact me at jpettit@jhu.edu*