**PURPOSE and SCOPE**

The purpose of this worksheet is to provide support for individuals in determining whether an activity is Human Research or how it is regulated. This worksheet is to be used. It does not need to be completed or retained. **Note**: this information does not apply to student-conducted or class-related human subjects research. Please see [Guidance: What Types of Activities Require IRB Review](https://research.cc.lehigh.edu/what-types-activities-require-irb-review) for more information on the types of student-conducted or class-related activity that may require IRB review.

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| START  Is activity “Human Research” as defined by DHHS?  Yes  No  Is activity “Human Research” as defined by FDA?  Is activity “Human Research” as defined by FDA?  No  Yes  No  Yes  “Human Research” under DHHS only  “Human Research” under DHHS and FDA  “Human Research” under FDA only  NOT “Human Research” | | |
| **1 Research as Defined by DHHS Regulations[[1]](#endnote-1)** (Check if **“Yes”**.) | | |
|  | Is the activity an investigation? (Investigation: a searching inquiry for facts; detailed or careful examination.) | |
|  | Is the investigation systematic? (Systematic: having or involving a system, method, or plan.) | |
|  | Is the systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to knowledge? (Designed: observable behaviors used to develop or contribute to knowledge. Develop: to form the basis for a future contribution. Contribute: to result in. Knowledge: truth, facts, information.) | |
|  | Is the knowledge the systematic investigation is designed to develop or contribute to generalizable? (Generalizable: Universally or widely applicable.) | |
| **2 Human Subject Under DHHS Regulations** (Check if **“Yes”**.) | | |
|  | Is the investigator conducting the Research gathering information or biospecimens about/from *living* individuals? | |
| **3 Human Subject Under DHHS Regulations** (Check if **“Yes”**.) | | |
|  | Will the investigator gather information or biospecimens through ***either*** of the following mechanisms (specify which mechanisms apply): | |
|  | Physical procedures or manipulations of those individuals or their environment for research purposes (“intervention”). |
|  | Communication or interpersonal contact with individuals (“interaction”). |
| **4 Human Subject Under DHHS Regulations** (Check if **“Yes”**.) | | |
|  | Will the investigator gather data that is ***either*** (specify which category/ies apply if ‘yes’): | |
|  | The data are about behaviors that occur in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place (i.e. “private information”). |
|  | Individuals have provided the data for specific purposes in which the individuals can reasonably expect that it will **NOT** be made public, such as a medical record (i.e. “private information”). |
|  | Can the individuals’ identities be readily ascertained by the investigator or associated with the information (i.e. “identifiable information”)? | |
| **5 Human Research Under DHHS Regulations** (Check if **“Yes”**) | | |
|  | Does the activity include: | |
|  | Collection or analysis of newborn dry blood spots[[2]](#endnote-2), either identifiable or de-identified, ***and*** |
|  | Is the research funded by HHS (does NOT include research funded by other entities that is conducted at institutions that have extended their FWA to cover all research, regardless of funding). |
| **If all items are checked under 1, 2, and 3; 1, 2 and 4; or 1, 2 and 5, the activity is Human Research under DHHS regulations.** | | |
| **6 Human Research Under FDA Regulations** | | |
|  | Does the activity involve ***any*** of the following (**check all that apply)**: | |
|  | In the United States: The use of a drug[[3]](#endnote-3) in one or more persons other than use of an approved drug in the course of medical practice[[4]](#endnote-4). |
|  | In the United States: The use of a device[[5]](#endnote-5) in one or more persons that evaluates the safety or effectiveness of that device. |
|  | Data regarding subjects or control subjects submitted to or held for inspection by the FDA.[[6]](#endnote-6) |
|  | Data regarding the use of a device on human specimens (identified or unidentified) submitted to or held for inspection by the FDA[[7]](#endnote-7). |
| If **“Yes”**, the activity is Human Research under FDA regulations. | | |
| **If the activity is Human Research under DHHS regulations or FDA regulations, it is Human Research under institutional policy.** | | |

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| Comments: |

1. The following activities conducted or supported by the Department of Defense (DOD) are NOT research involving human subjects: Activities carried out solely for purposes of diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of injury and disease in Service members and other mission essential personnel under force health protection programs of the Department of Defense, including health surveillance pursuant to section 1074f of Reference (g) and the use of medical products consistent with DoD Instruction 6200.02. Authorized health and medical activities as part of the reasonable practice of medicine or other health professions undertaken for the sole purpose of patient treatment. Activities performed for the sole purpose of medical quality assurance consistent with 10 USC 1102 and DoDD 6025.13. Activities performed solely for assessing compliance of individuals and organizations with requirements applicable to military, civilian, or contractor personnel or to organizational units, including such activities as occupational drug testing, occupational health and safety reviews, network monitoring, and monitoring for compliance with requirements for protection of classified information. Activities, including program evaluation, customer satisfaction surveys, user surveys, outcome reviews, and other methods, designed solely to assess the performance of DoD programs where the results of the evaluation are only for the use of Government officials responsible for the operation and oversight of the program being evaluated and are not intended for general use beyond such program. Survey, interview, or surveillance activities and related analyses performed solely for authorized foreign intelligence collection purposes, as authorized by DoDD 5240.01. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Public law No: 113-240 SEC. 12. Informed consent for newborn screening research https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1281/text#toc-H280D08A1BB53478E921ABEB393211C80 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. The term “drug” means:

   Articles recognized in the official United States Pharmacopoeis, official Homoeopathic Pharmacoppeia of the United States, or official National Formulary, or any supplement to any of them; and

   Articles intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in man or other animals; and

   Articles (other than food and dietary supplements) intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of man or other animals; and

   Articles intended for use as a component of any article specified in clause (A), (B), or (C). [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. “Other than the use of an approved drug in the course of medical practice” refers to a practitioner providing an approved drug to a patient because the practitioner believes the drug to be in the best interest of the patient. If the protocol specifies the use of the drug, it is not in the course of medical practice unless use of the drug is completely up to the discretion of the practitioner. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. The term “device” means an instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant, in vitro reagent, or other similar or related article, including any component, part, or accessory, which is:

   Recognized in the official National Formulary, or the United States Pharmacopeia, or any supplement to them,

   Intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions, or in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, in man or other animals, or

   Intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of man or other animals, and which does not achieve its primary intended purposes through chemical action within or on the body of man or other animals and which is not dependent upon being metabolized for the achievement of its primary intended purposes. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. This is specific to submissions that are part of an application for research or marketing permits. However, unless otherwise indicated, assume all submission to FDA meet this requirement. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. This is specific to submissions that are part of an application for research or marketing permits. However, unless otherwise indicated, assume all submissions to FDA meet this requirement. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)