



SOP: IRB Formation and Registration

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This procedure establishes the process to form a new Northwestern University IRB panel, update the IRB registration of an existing IRB, or rely on an external IRB for the review of human subjects research.
- 1.2 The process begins when the Institutional Official or designee determines the need for a new IRB or updated IRB registration.
- 1.3 The process ends when the IRB is registered with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), the Federalwide assurance (FWA) is updated (if needed), and all IRB Panel members have completed training (if needed).

2 PREVIOUS VERSION

- 2.1 Revised from previous version dated 11/22/2018.

3 POLICY

- 3.1 The Institutional Official or Designee (e.g. the Executive Director, IRB Office) in conjunction with the appropriate IRB Office Manager(s) determines: (1) when a new Northwestern University IRB panel or reliance on an external IRB is needed and (2) the type and scope of reviews that the new IRB will conduct.
- 3.2 The new Northwestern University IRB panel that is being added must be registered with OHRP and Northwestern University's FWA updated (as applicable) before it reviews research conducted or supported by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- 3.3 IRB rosters are maintained using the "DATABASE: IRB Roster (HRP-601)."
- 3.4 IRB registrations on file with HHS will be updated as follows:
- 3.5 If an IRB's contact or chairperson information changes, the IRB must revise its registration information within 90 days of the change.
- 3.6 If an IRB decides to review new types of FDA-regulated products (e.g., to review device studies if it only reviewed drug studies previously) or to stop reviewing clinical investigations regulated by FDA, this must be reported within 30 days of the change.
- 3.7 If an IRB decides to disband, this must be reported within 30 days of permanent cessation of the IRB's review of research.
- 3.8 An IRB is required to renew its registration and verify the required information every 3 years from the date of the last entry/change made to the registration information.
- 3.9 Addition of IRB Members to a new Northwestern University IRB panel is conducted in accordance with SOP "IRB Member Addition (Appointment and Reappointment)" (HRP-082)
- 3.10 Northwestern University will rely on an external IRB when there is an executed IRB Authorization Agreement and in accordance with SOP "External IRBs" (HRP-092)

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 IRB Office staff members carry out these procedures.
- 4.2 The Institutional Official or designee (e.g. the Executive Director, IRB Office) in conjunction with the appropriate IRB Office Manager(s) appoints IRB members, alternate members, IRB chairs and vice chairs.

5 PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Determine from the Institutional Official or designee whether the IRB will conduct all reviews without limitation or will be limited to certain types of reviews.
- 5.2 For external IRBs:



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- 5.2.1 Determine that the external IRB meets the required criteria and ensure that an IAA has been executed in accordance with SOP “External IRBs” (HRP-092) and that the IAA has been filed.
- 5.3 For internal IRBs:
 - 5.3.1 Select:
 - 5.3.1.1 At least five individuals to serve as IRB members.
 - 5.3.1.2 Additional individuals to serve as alternate IRB members, if needed.
 - 5.3.1.3 At least one of the individuals to be the IRB chair.
 - 5.3.2 Follow “SOP: IRB Member Addition (Appointment and Reappointment)” (HRP-082) for each IRB member.
 - 5.3.3 Use “WORKSHEET: IRB Composition (HRP-304)” and revise the selected individuals as needed to ensure that the IRB meets regulatory and organizational requirements.
 - 5.3.4 Notify the Executive Director, IRB Office and IRB manager when all new IRB members have completed training.
 - 5.3.5 Create the new IRB committee and add the individual Committee Member roles in the Northwestern University electronic IRB system.
 - 5.3.6 Register the IRB with OHRP¹.
 - 5.3.7 Add the new IRB to Northwestern University’s Federalwide assurance (FWA)².

6 MATERIALS

- 6.1 DATABASE: IRB Roster (HRP-601)
- 6.2 FORM: IRB Member Information (HRP-202)
- 6.3 SOP: IRB Member Addition (Appointment and Reappointment) (HRP-082)
- 6.4 SOP: External IRBs (HRP-092)
- 6.5 TEMPLATE LETTER: IRB New Member Appointment (HRP-560)
- 6.6 WORKSHEET: IRB Composition (HRP-304)

7 REFERENCES

- 7.1 45 CFR §46.107, 45 CFR §46.103(b)(3), 45 CFR §46.115(a)(5), 45 CFR 46, Subpart E.
- 7.2 21 CFR §56.107, 21 CFR §56.115(a)(5).

¹ See <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/assurances/>. Use the Web site: <http://ohrp.cit.nih.gov/efile/>.

² See <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/assurances/>. Use the Web site: <http://ohrp.cit.nih.gov/efile/>.