

**Information for Investigators: Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Research and  
Development Command (USAMRDC)  
Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (OHARO)  
Human Research Protections Regulatory Requirements**

**OHARO Office of Human Research Oversight (OHRO)**

**1. Department of Defense (DoD) Human Subjects Protection Regulatory Requirements**

a. DoD regulations require that the DoD include specific language in contracts or other comparable agreements (e.g., grants, assistance agreements, and cooperative research and development agreements) that might include research involving human subjects. This language identifies the awardee requirements and responsibilities, and requires that any research involving human subjects supported by the award be approved by a DoD Human Research Protection Official (DHRPO) prior to implementation of the research.

b. The awardee is responsible for overseeing execution of the research and must include similar language in subcontracts that support research involving human subjects. In addition, this language:

(1) Allows DoD representatives to independently review and inspect the awardee's research. This may include access to identifiable information or protected health information (thus, subjects must be informed);

(2) Allows DoD representatives to prohibit research that is determined to present unacceptable hazards or is non-compliant with DoD regulatory requirements;

(3) Applies to all human subjects research, whether or not it is determined to be exempt from the regulations.

c. The DHRPO must perform an administrative review of the research before the activities that involve human subjects can begin (e.g., human subject recruitment and data collection). At a minimum, the DHRPO must:

(1) Concur with the extramural institution regarding activities they have determined to be either (a) research not involving human subjects; or (b) research involving human subjects that is exempt from the regulatory provisions of 32 CFR 219.

(2) Confirm the institution has a Federal assurance appropriate for the conduct of the non-exempt research involving human subjects in question. If DoD institutions are engaged in the extramural research, they must have a DoD Assurance.

(3) Review the research protocol for compliance with DoD Instruction (DoDI) 3216.02 "Protection of Human Subjects and Adherence to Ethical Standards in DoD-Supported Research," accept the Institutional Review Board (IRB) determination of

level of risk, ensure that the study is compliant with applicable Federal and DoD regulatory requirements and approve the protocol prior to implementation.

(4) Review and accept IRB-approved substantive changes to an approved research protocol before they are implemented.

(5) Ensure the IRB conducts an appropriate continuing review at least annually, as applicable.

(6) When the research involving human subjects is being conducted in a foreign country, confirm all applicable national laws and requirements of the foreign country have been met and confirm the IRB considered the cultural sensitivities in the setting where the research will take place.

d. The USAMRDC OHARO OHRO has designated approval authorities to meet the DHRPO approval requirement for DoD-supported research.

## **2. Requirements for Approval of Extramural Human Subjects Research**

a. **Federal Assurance of Compliance.** Each institution engaged in non-exempt human subjects research must have a current Department of Health and Human Services Office for Human Research Protection (OHRP) FWA or DoD Assurance. An IRB review by one of the IRBs listed on the institution's assurance or identified in an Institutional Agreement for IRB Review must be provided. To avoid delays in the OHRO approval process, verify that the institutions engaged in the research have active assurances. The Institution's IRB office or the OHRO can assist in determining if engaged institutions have active assurances and obtaining an assurance is required.

b. **Investigator Qualifications.** A CV or Biosketch of the Principal Investigator (PI) must be provided to the OHRO. Documentation of human subjects protection training (per local policy) for the Principal Investigator and all Associate Investigators (AIs) must be provided to the OHRO prior to approval. A description of roles and responsibilities of study personnel will be requested during the review process to assist in determination of which institutions are engaged in the research.

c. **Compliance with the Single IRB (sIRB) mandate.** Effective 20 January 2020, any institution located in the U.S. that is engaged in multi-site cooperative research must rely upon approval by a single IRB for that portion of the research that is conducted in the U.S. The primary awardee (lead institution) of a USAMRDC-managed research proposal that includes a multi-site, cooperative effort must develop a plan for coordinating all collaborating sites' reliance on a single IRB for DoD-supported multi-site cooperative research.

d. **When applicable, the following DoD unique requirements must be addressed prior to OHRO approval:**

(1) 10 United States Code 980. The requirements of Title 10 United States Code (USC) 980, which are applicable to DoD sponsored research, must be considered. 10 USC 980 requires that “Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense may not be used for research involving a human being as an experimental subject unless- (1) the informed consent of the subject is obtained in advance; or (2) in the case of research intended to be beneficial to the subject, the informed consent may be obtained from a legal representative of the subject.”

Note that the definition of experimental subject is found in DoDI 3216.02 and has a much narrower definition than human subject. Research with experimental subjects must involve an intervention or interaction where the primary purpose of the research is to collect data regarding the effects of the intervention or interaction.

An individual not legally competent to provide informed consent (e.g., incapacitated individuals, cognitively impaired, minors) may not be enrolled as an experimental subject in a DoD-supported experiment unless participation in the research is intended to benefit each subject enrolled in the study, to include subjects enrolled in study placebo arms. Studies designed in a manner that permits all subjects to potentially benefit directly from medical treatment or enhanced surveillance beyond the standard of care can meet the 10 USC 980 requirements.



***10 USC 980 is only applicable to certain intervention studies. It does not apply to retrospective studies, observational studies, blood draws, and tissue collections. Contact the OHRO for further clarification regarding applicability of 10 USC 980 to the proposed research project.***

(2) Recruitment of Military Personnel. Civilian investigators attempting to access military volunteer pools are advised to seek collaboration with a military investigator who will be familiar with service-specific requirements.

A letter of support from Commanders of military facilities or units in which recruitment will occur or the study will be conducted will be requested by the OHRO. Some military sites may also require that each volunteer seek written permission from their supervisor prior to participation in research studies.

Special consideration must be given to the recruitment process for military personnel. The Chain of Command must not be involved in the recruitment of military personnel and cannot encourage or order Service members to participate in a research study. For greater than minimal risk research, DoDI 3216.02 requires that an ombudsman be employed when conducting group recruitment briefings with Active Duty personnel to ensure that they understand that participation is voluntary. The use of an ombudsman may be recommended in other situations as well, especially when young enlisted service members, who are trained to follow orders, are being recruited. Service members are trained to act as a unit, so peer pressure should also be considered and minimized if possible.

(3) Payment to Federal Employees and Military Personnel. Under 24 USC 30, payment to Federal Employees and Active Duty military personnel for participation in research while on duty is limited to blood donation and may not exceed \$50 per

blood draw. They may not receive any other payment or non-monetary compensation for participation in a research study unless they are off duty or on leave during the time they are participating in the protocol.

(4) USAMRDC Required Protocol and Consent Form Language;

The following must appear in the consent form:

- A statement that the DoD or a DoD organization is funding the study.
- A statement that representatives of the DoD are authorized to review research records.
- In the HIPAA Authorization or HIPAA authorization section of the consent form, representatives of the DoD must be listed as one of the parties to whom private health information may be disclosed.

(5) For Development of Medical Products. Product information must be provided with the protocol submission. The OHRO will assess protocols involving medical products for applicability of FDA regulations. Additional documentation may be requested for investigational products. If the FDA, the IRB, or another regulatory office has determined that the protocol does not require an IND or IDE, provide any documentation available related to this determination.

### 3. USAMRDC OHARO OHRO Submission and Administrative Review Process

a. DoD research programs submit proposals selected for funding to the USAMRDC OHARO OHRO for human subjects protection regulatory review. An **OHRO Proposal Submission Form**, which can be found at [https://mrhc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research\\_protections/hrpo](https://mrhc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research_protections/hrpo), designed to facilitate the protocol review process, is also submitted for review. This submission form contains information that the USAMRDC funding program may need to solicit from the **Proposal PI** before the proposal is submitted to USAMRDC OHARO OHRO.

b. Once the proposal and completed **Proposal Submission Form** have been submitted and triaged, an OHRO staff member will contact the Principal Investigator (PI) to provide the OHRO **Protocol Submission Form** and request the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved protocol (or an estimate of when the protocol will be submitted for review). The PI must complete the information requested on the **Protocol Submission Form**. Any information that is unknown at the time of protocol submission will be obtained during the review process.

c. Protocols must be limited to the DoD funded activities as stated in the approved Statement of Work. Adding the DoD funded activities to an existing protocol, that is not DoD funded or supported, will require extensive revisions to meet DoD requirements. Therefore, the OHRO requires the submission of a new, separate protocol that only contains the DOD funded or supported activities. The new protocol will require review and approval by the IRB. The OHRO will conduct a pre-review of

the protocol prior to IRB submission, if requested, to ensure that it meets DOD requirements prior to submission to the IRB.

d. When the IRB-approved protocol and **Protocol Submission Form** are received, the project will be assigned to a Human Subjects Protection Scientist (HSPS). The HSPS will be the main OHRO point of contact for the PI for information regarding initial review and approval of the protocol, in addition to life cycle reporting requirements. The HSPS will review the protocol for compliance with federal, DoD and state or host nation regulatory requirements and assist the PI with addressing any outstanding issues prior to submission for final OHRO approval. If revisions to the protocol or consent form are required to bring the protocol into compliance, the revised documents must be approved by the IRB prior to OHRO approval.

e. For protocols involving multiple research sites and/or multi-institutional collaborations on a single study, the OHRO must review and approve site specific documentation prior to participation in human research activities.

f. If the project involves execution of all or part of the research outside of the United States the OHRO must confirm all applicable host national laws and requirements of the foreign country have been met and confirm the IRB considered cultural sensitivities in the setting where the research will take place. The Principal Investigator must provide adequate information to the OHRO regarding national laws and requirements and the cultural context in which the research will take place. This information can be provided through completion of applicable sections of the OHRO International Research Submission Form, or through inclusion of applicable information in the protocol.

g. Standard reporting requirements to OHRO are outlined at the end of this document. Additional protocol specific reporting requirements may be included in the OHRO approval memorandum.

#### **4. Reporting Requirements and Responsibilities of the Principal Investigator to the USAMRDC OHARO OHRO**

a. The protocol will not be initiated until written notification of approval of the research project is issued by the OHRO.

b. The Principal Investigator has a duty and responsibility to foster open and honest communication with research subjects. The USAMRDC strongly encourages the Principal Investigator to provide subjects with a copy of the research protocol, if requested, with proprietary and personal information redacted as needed.

c. The Principal Investigator must comply with the following minimum reporting requirements. Specific reporting requirements for the protocol will be included in the OHRO Approval Memorandum. Failure to comply could result in suspension of funding.

(1) Substantive modifications to the research protocol and any modifications that could potentially increase risk to subjects must be submitted to the OHRO for approval prior to implementation. The USAMRDC OHARO OHRO defines a substantive modification as a change in Principal Investigator, change or addition of an institution, elimination or alteration of the consent process, change to the study population that has regulatory implications (e.g. adding children, adding active duty population, etc.), significant change in study design (i.e. would prompt additional scientific review) or a change that could potentially increase risks to subjects.

(2) Any changes of the IRB used to review and approve the research will be promptly reported to the USAMRDC OHARO OHRO.

(3) All unanticipated problems involving risk to subjects or others must be promptly reported by telephone (301-619-2165), by email ([usarmy.detrick.medcom-usamrhc.other.hrpo@health.mil](mailto:usarmy.detrick.medcom-usamrhc.other.hrpo@health.mil)), or by facsimile (301-619-7803) to the OHRO. A complete written report will follow the initial notification. In addition to the methods above, the complete report can be sent to the US Army Medical Research and Development Command, ATTN: FCMR-RP, 810 Schreider Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5000.

(4) Suspensions, clinical holds (voluntary or involuntary), or terminations of this research by the Institutional Review Board (IRB), the institution, the Sponsor, or regulatory agencies will be promptly reported to the USAMRDC OHARO OHRO.

(5) As applicable, a copy of the continuing review approval notification by the IRB of Record must be submitted to the OHRO as soon as possible after receipt. For greater than minimal risk research, a copy of the continuing review report approved by the IRB must also be provided. Please note that the OHRO may conduct audits at the time of continuing review. Additional information and documentation may be requested at that time.

(6) The final study report, including any acknowledgement documentation and supporting documents, must be submitted to the OHRO when available.

(7) The knowledge of any pending compliance inspection/visit by the FDA, DHHS Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), or other government agency concerning this research, the issuance of Inspection Reports, FDA Form 483, warning letters or actions taken by any regulatory agencies including legal or medical actions and any instances of serious or continuing noncompliance with the regulations or requirements, must be promptly reported to the OHRO.

**Please Note:** The USAMRDC OHARO OHRO conducts site visits as part of its responsibility for compliance oversight. Accurate and complete study records must be maintained and made available to representatives of the USAMRDC as a part of their responsibility to protect human subjects in research. Research records must be stored in a confidential manner so as to protect the confidentiality of subject information.

For questions regarding the OHRO human research protocol review requirements email [usarmy.detrick.medcom-usamrmc.other.hrpo@health.mil](mailto:usarmy.detrick.medcom-usamrmc.other.hrpo@health.mil) or leave a voicemail at 301-619-2165 and a staff member will contact you.