

1.18 Review and Approval of HRPP Policies and Procedures

Last Revised: 11/13/2024

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe the Organization's requirements for the review and approval of HRPP policies.

2.0 Policy

It is the policy of the Organization to continually assess the adequacy of existent policies in consideration of new information and Organizational requirements that may affect the HRPP, including federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidance, as well as emerging ethical and scientific issues.

3.0 Review of HRPP Policies

- 3.1. The IRB Analysts, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Regulatory Affairs, the IRB Executive Chair, and IO will review HRPP policies on a rolling basis, with a target of review of policies at least every three years. However, anytime a policy requires revision due to new or revised federal, state or local laws, federal regulations or guidance, changes in Organizational requirements, or identification of deficiencies, the policy will be revised accordingly.
- 3.2. New HRPP policies which are (1) regulatory in nature (that is, which are dictated by federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidance), or (2) which solely describe ORA processes, will be provided to the IRBs for their information, but do not require approval by the IRBs.
- 3.3. New HRPP policies which include substantive extra-regulatory issues will be reviewed and approved by the IRBs that have scheduled meetings, the IO, and in select cases, other Organizational officials.
- 3.4. Modifications to existing HRPP policies that are (1) regulatory in nature (that is, which are dictated by federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidance), or (2) which solely describe ORA processes, or (3) which are limited to stylistic changes and/or corrections of typographic or other minor errors, will be provided to the IRBs for their information, but do not require approval by the IRBs.

- 3.5. Modifications to existing HRPP policies which include substantive extra-regulatory changes will be reviewed and approved by the IRBs that have scheduled meetings, the IO, and in select cases, other Organizational officials.
 - 3.6. New HRPP policies, or modifications to existing HRPP policies which represent substantive extra-regulatory changes, but which affect only one specific board (for example, the RR-IRB [IRB-03] or IRB-06) will be reviewed and approved only by that board.
 - 3.7. All new and revised HRPP policies must be approved by the IO and the Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Regulatory Affairs. The Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Regulatory Affairs, in consultation with the IO, will determine when policies also should be reviewed by other Organizational Officials (for example, Compliance Officer, Privacy Officer, General Counsel, and/or Vice Chancellor for Research).
 - 3.7.1. New and revised HRPP policies that do not require IRB approval as above will be approved by the IO prior to notification of the board. New and revised HRPP policies that require IRB approval (section 3.3) will be reviewed by the boards prior to approval of the IO.
-

4.0 Full IRB Review of Draft HRPP Policies

- 4.1. New and revised HRPP policies requiring review by the full IRB as above will either be (1) discussed at all regularly scheduled IRB meetings, or (2) subject to an email vote, as described below.
- 4.2. Review at convened IRB meetings
 - 4.2.1. IRB members will receive a copy of the policy to be reviewed with the detailed meeting agenda in advance of the scheduled IRB meeting.
 - 4.2.2. All IRB members may cast their vote (for, against, abstain) either at the IRB meeting or via e-mail. IRB members may provide written statements in support of their vote or ask other IRB members to express their opinions at the meeting.
 - 4.2.3. For the vote to be valid, a majority of each affected board must cast a vote, either in person or by e-mail. For the policy to be approved, a majority of those voting must vote for approval.
 - 4.2.4. If the motion to approve a policy fails to pass, the draft policy may be referred to the IRB Executive Chair or an IRB subcommittee for further discussion and revision before re-consideration.
- 4.3. Review by email
 - 4.3.1. At the discretion of the IO, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Regulatory Affairs, or the IRB Executive Chair, voting procedure by e-mail alone will be allowed for consideration of a policy. In general, this procedure should be limited to new policies that represent existing IRB practices, non-major revision of existing policies, or instances where approval of a policy is necessary before the next regularly scheduled meeting.
 - 4.3.2. IRB members will receive by email a copy of the policy to be reviewed, as well as a summary of key points in the new policy, or relevant changes to the existing policy. The email will also describe the deadline for response, and the interpretation of non-response (that is, non-response is considered a vote in favor).
 - 4.3.3. IRB members may provide written statements in support of their vote or request that the policy be brought to a convened meeting for discussion. The IO has the authority to decide on such requests, based on the nature of the members'

concerns, and the urgency of the policy review.

- 4.3.4. For the vote to be valid, a majority of each affected board must cast a vote. For the policy to be approved, a majority of those voting must vote for approval.
- 4.3.5. If the motion to approve a policy fails to pass, the draft policy may be referred to the IRB Executive Chair or an IRB subcommittee for further discussion and revision before re-consideration.

5.0 Organizational Notification of Changes to HRPP Policies

- 5.1. Changes to HRPP policies will be communicated to the Organization's research community by email, notification on the IRB website, and/or other media as appropriate.
- 5.2. IRB Analysts and staff will be notified by email or at a staff meeting.

DOCUMENT HISTORY:

? Written: 1/25/2016 (Approved: 1/25/2016) - original author not recorded

? Revised: 1/28/2018 - revision not documented

? Revised: 6/30/2022 - Revised required frequency of policy review; revised number of IRBs; clarified order of review and approval of policies by boards and IO; removed requirement for "read receipt" for email votes; clarified mechanism for notifying ORA staff.

? Revised: 11/13/2024 – modified to distinguish between new and modified policies; clarified which modifications to existing policies need to be reviewed by the IRBs; clarified that if a policy only affects a single board (eg, RR-IRB or IRB-06) only that board needs to approve; stylistic changes.

Revision #16

Created 21 October 2019 21:49:55 by Autumn M Eberly

Updated 17 April 2025 15:31:42 by Robert A Lewis