

Title	Research Requiring REB Review
SOP Code	102.005
Effective Date	14-Apr-2026

Site Approvals

Name and Title (typed or printed)	Signature	Date dd/Mon/yyyy

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe research activities that require Research Ethics Board (REB) review and research activities that do not.

2.0 SCOPE

This SOP pertains to REBs that review human Participant research in compliance with applicable regulations and policies.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

All REB members and REB Office Personnel are responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this SOP are met.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

See Glossary of Terms.

5.0 PROCEDURE

All research involving human Participants must be reviewed and approved by an REB. No intervention or interaction with human Participants in research, including recruitment, may begin until an REB has reviewed and approved the research protocol and related attachments.

5.1 Research that Requires REB Review

The following requires ethics review and approval by an REB before the research commences:

- (a) Research involving living human Participants,
- (b) Research involving human biological materials, as well as human embryos, fetuses, fetal tissue, reproductive materials, and stem cells. This applies to materials derived from living and deceased individuals.

5.2 Research Exempt from REB Review

5.2.1 Research that relies exclusively on publicly available information does not require REB review when:

- (a) The information is legally accessible to the public and appropriately protected by law,
- (b) The information is publicly accessible and there is no reasonable expectation of privacy;

5.2.2 REB review is not required for research involving the observation of people in public places where:

- (a) It does not involve any intervention staged by the Researcher, or direct interaction with the individuals or groups,
- (b) Individuals or groups targeted for observation have no reasonable expectation of privacy, and
- (c) Any dissemination of research results does not allow identification of specific individuals;

5.2.3 REB review is not required for research that relies exclusively on secondary use of anonymous information, or anonymous human biological materials-, so long as the process of data linkage or recording or dissemination of results does not

generate identifiable information;

- 5.2.4 The opinion of the REB should be sought whenever there is any doubt about the applicability of the guidelines and regulations.

5.3 Activities Not Requiring REB Review

- 5.3.1 Research activities outside the scope of REB expertise and review may still raise ethical issues that would benefit from careful consideration by an individual or body capable of providing independent guidance, other than an REB;
- 5.3.2 Quality assurance and quality improvement studies, program evaluation activities, performance reviews, or testing within normal educational requirements when used exclusively for assessment, management or improvement purposes, do not constitute research for the purposes of this SOP, and do not fall within the scope of REB review;
- 5.3.3 Creative practice activities, in and of themselves, do not require REB review. However, research that employs creative practice to obtain responses from Participants that will be analyzed to answer a research question is subject to REB review.

6.0 REFERENCES

See References.

7.0 REVISION HISTORY

SOP Code	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
SOP102.001	15-Sept-2014	Original version
SOP102.002	08-Mar-2016	No revisions needed
SOP102.003	08-Oct-2019	No revisions needed
SOP102.004	15-May-2023	No revisions needed
SOP102.005	14-Apr-2026	2.0: revised 'guidelines' to 'policies'. 5.0: revised 'consent documents and recruitment materials' to 'related attachments' to reflect the scope of materials which may be reviewed and approved by an REB. 5.3.1: deleted 'some' in front of 'independent guidance'.