

Title	Research Completion
SOP Code	406.005
Effective Date	14-Apr-2026

Site Approvals

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

1.0 PURPOSE

This standard operating procedure (SOP) describes the procedures for the closure of research with the Research Ethics Board (REB).

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.

The REB Chair or Designee is responsible for determining if any of the submitted materials should be reviewed by the Full Board.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

See Glossary of Terms.

5.0 PROCEDURE

The Completion of research is a change in activity that must be reported to the REB.

Although research Participants may no longer be at risk under the research, a final report allows the REB to close its files in addition to providing the REB with information that may be used in the evaluation and approval of related studies.

5.1 Determining when Research can be Closed

- 5.1.1 The Researcher may submit a research closure report to the REB once all Participant involvement and communication have ended, and no further data collection, follow-up, or interaction is expected. At that point, the project typically no longer poses ongoing ethical considerations related to Participant welfare or consent. However, Researchers and the REB should consider that some protocols remain open even after active participation concludes—particularly when identifiable or sensitive data are still being stored, analyzed, or used for future submissions. Keeping the protocol open in these cases ensures that any future data use is reviewed, Participant privacy is maintained, and the research team continues to meet applicable regulations and institutional requirements for safeguarding sensitive information.
- 5.1.2 The responsible REB Office Personnel will review the research closure application and request any outstanding information, clarification, or documentation from the Researcher, if needed;
- 5.1.3 The REB Chair or Designee will review the submission and issue a Letter of Acknowledgement to the Researcher. The research state will change to “*Closed*”;
- 5.1.4 Once a research project is “*Closed*” with the REB, no further submissions for that research will be permitted; however, if required, the Researcher still may submit relevant documents for acknowledgement and, if applicable, further investigation and/or action may be undertaken by the REB;
- 5.1.5 If the Sponsor requests additional data following the closure of the research, a request for approval shall be made to the REB and the conditions of this request will be determined at the time of the review.

6.0 REFERENCES

See References.

7.0 REVISION HISTORY

SOP Code	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
SOP406.001	15-Sept-2014	Original version
SOP406.002	08-Mar-2016	No revisions needed
SOP406.003	08-Oct-2019	No revisions needed
SOP406.004	15-May-2023	No revisions needed
SOP 406.005	14-Apr-2026	2.0: replaced 'guidelines' with 'policies'; 5.1.1: deleted 'The Researcher may submit a research closure report to the REB when there is no further participant involvement at the site, all new data collection is complete, and the sponsor closeout activities, if applicable, have been completed. REB approvals are not expected to remain open until results are shared.' Replaced with the new content of 5.1.1.