

7.1 Expedited Review

An IRB may use the expedited review procedure to review either or both of the following:

1. Some or all of the research appearing on the list of categories of research eligible for expedited review and found by the reviewer(s) to involve no more than minimal risk.
2. Minor changes in previously approved research during the period (of one year or less) for which approval is authorized. Note: review of minor changes does not alter the end-date of study approval.

The standard requirements for informed consent (or its waiver, alteration, or exception) apply regardless of the type of review--expedited or convened--used by the IRB.

7.1.1 Categories of Research Eligible for Expedited Review

The University of Virginia applies the categories of research eligible for expedited review, which were published in the Federal Register notice 63 FR 60364-60367, November 9, 1998.

The activities listed below should not be deemed to be of minimal risk simply because they are included on this list. Inclusion on this list merely means that the activity is eligible for review through the expedited review procedure when the specific circumstances of the proposed research involve no more than minimal risk to human subjects.

The categories in this list apply regardless of the age of subjects, except as noted in category 2.

The expedited review procedure may not be used where identification of the subjects and/or their responses would reasonably place them at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects financial standing, employability, insurability, reputation, or be stigmatizing, unless reasonable and appropriate protections will be implemented so that risks related to invasion of privacy and breach of confidentiality are no greater than minimal.

The expedited review procedure may not be used for classified research involving human subjects.

Research Categories one (1) through seven (7) may be used for both initial and continuing IRB review:

(1) Clinical studies of drugs and medical devices only when condition (a) or (b) is met.

(a) Research on drugs for which an investigational new drug application (21 CFR Part 312) is not required. (Note: Research on marketed drugs that significantly increases the risks or decreases the acceptability of the risks associated with the use of the product is not eligible for expedited review.)

(b) Research on medical devices for which (i) an investigational device exemption application (21 CFR Part 812) is not required; or (ii) the medical device is cleared/approved for marketing and the medical device is being used in accordance with its cleared/approved labeling.

(2) Collection of blood samples by finger stick, heel stick, ear stick, or venipuncture as follows:

(a) from healthy, nonpregnant adults who weigh at least 110 pounds. For these subjects, the amounts drawn may not exceed 550 ml in an 8 week period and collection may not occur more frequently than 2 times per week; or

(b) from other adults and children, considering the age, weight, and health of the subjects, the collection procedure, the amount of blood to be collected, and the frequency with which it will be collected. For these subjects, the amount drawn may not exceed the lesser of 50 ml or 3 ml per kg in an 8 week period and collection may not occur more frequently than 2 times per week. (Note: Children are defined as "persons who have not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved in the research, under the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which the research will be conducted.)

(3) Prospective collection of biological specimens for research purposes by noninvasive means.

Examples: (a) hair and nail clippings in a nondisfiguring manner; (b) deciduous teeth at time of exfoliation or if routine patient care indicates a need for extraction; (c) permanent teeth if routine patient care indicates a need for extraction; (d) excreta and external secretions (including sweat); (e) uncannulated saliva collected either in an unstimulated fashion or stimulated by chewing gum base or wax or by applying a dilute citric solution to the tongue; (f) placenta removed at delivery; (g) amniotic fluid obtained at the time of rupture of the membrane prior to or during labor; (h) supra- and subgingival dental plaque and calculus, provided the collection procedure is not more invasive than routine prophylactic scaling of the teeth and the process is accomplished in accordance with accepted prophylactic techniques; (i) mucosal and skin cells collected by buccal scraping or swab, skin swab, or mouth washings; (j) sputum collected after saline mist nebulization; (k) vaginal swabs that do not go beyond the cervical os; rectal swabs that do not go beyond the rectum; and nasal swabs that do not go beyond the nares.

(4) Collection of data through noninvasive procedures, not involving general anesthesia or sedation, routinely employed in clinical practice, excluding procedures involving x-rays or microwaves. Where medical devices are employed, they must be cleared/approved for marketing. (Note: Studies intended to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the medical device are not generally eligible for expedited review, including studies of cleared medical devices for new indications.)

Examples: (a) physical sensors that are applied either to the surface of the body or at a distance and do not involve input of significant amounts of energy into the subject or an invasion of the subject's privacy; (b) weighing or testing sensory acuity; (c) magnetic resonance imaging; (d) electrocardiography, electroencephalography, thermography, detection of naturally occurring radioactivity, electroretinography, ultrasound, diagnostic infrared imaging, Doppler blood flow, and echocardiography; (e) moderate exercise, muscular strength testing, body composition assessment, and flexibility testing where appropriate given the age, weight, and health of the individual.

(5) Research involving materials (data, documents, records, or specimens) that have been collected, or will be collected solely for nonresearch purposes (such as medical treatment or diagnosis). (NOTE: Some research in this category may be exempt from the DHHS regulations for the protection of human subjects. See Exempt Categories and 45 CFR 46 101(b)(2) and b(3). This listing refers only to research that is not exempt.)

(6) Collection of data from voice, video, digital, or image recordings made for research purposes.

(7) Research on individual or group characteristics or behavior (including, but not limited to, research on perception, cognition, motivation, identity, language, communication, cultural beliefs or practices, and social behavior); or research employing survey, interview, oral history, focus group, program evaluation, human factors evaluation, or quality assurance methodologies. (NOTE: Some research in this category may be exempt from the DHHS regulations for the protection of human subjects. See Exempt Categories and 45 CFR 46.101(b)(2) and (b)(3). This listing refers only to research that is not exempt.)

Categories 8 and 9 apply only to continuing review.

(8) Continuing review of research previously approved by the convened IRB as follows:

(a) Where (i) the research at University of Virginia is permanently closed to the enrollment of new subjects; (ii) all subjects have completed all research-related interventions; and (iii) the research remains active only for long-term follow-up of subjects (Note: “Long-term follow-up” includes research *interactions* that involve no more than minimal risk to subjects (e.g., quality of life surveys); and collection of *follow-up* data from procedures or interventions that would have been done as part of routine clinical practice to monitor a subject for disease progression or recurrence, regardless of whether the procedures or interventions are described in the research study, but not *interventions* that would not have been performed for clinical purposes, even if the research interventions involve no more than minimal risk.); **or**

(b) Where no subjects have ever been enrolled at University of Virginia and no additional risks have been identified (Note: “no additional risks have been identified” means that neither the investigator nor the IRB has identified any additional risks from any institution engaged in the research project or from any other relevant source since the IRB’s most recent prior review.); **or**

(c) Where the remaining research activities at University of Virginia are limited to data analysis. (Note: Simply maintaining individually identifiable private information without using, studying, or analyzing such information is not human subject research and thus does not require continuing review.

(9) Continuing review of research previously approved by the IRB at a convened meeting that meets the following conditions:

- The research is not conducted under an investigational new drug application (IND) or an investigational device exemption (IDE);
- Expedited review categories (2) through (8) do not apply to the research;
- The IRB has determined and documented at a convened meeting that the research, or the remaining research activity involving human subjects, involves no greater than minimal risk to the subjects; and
- No additional risks of the research have been identified. (Note: “no additional risks have been identified” means that neither the investigator nor the IRB has identified any additional risks from any institution engaged in the research project or from any other relevant source since the IRB’s most recent prior review.)

7.1.2 Expedited Review Procedures

Under an expedited review procedure, the review may be carried out by the IRB Chair or by one or more reviewers designated by the Chair from among members of the IRB. IRB members who serve as designees to the IRB Chair for expedited review will be matched as closely as possible with their field of expertise to the study.

The Chair will designate a list of IRB members eligible to conduct expedited review. The designees must be experienced (having served on the IRB for at least one year) voting members or alternate members of the IRB. Selected reviewers will have the qualifications, experience and knowledge in types of research to be reviewed, as well as be knowledgeable of the requirements to approve research under expedited review. IRB members with a conflict of interest in the research (see Section 21.2) will not be selected.

When reviewing research under an expedited review procedure, the IRB Chair, or designated IRB member(s), will receive and review all documentation that would normally be submitted for a full-board review. This requirement applies to all categories of submissions including initial reviews, continuing reviews, and modifications. The reviewer determines and documents the regulatory criteria allowing use of the expedited review procedure in applicable review checklists and/or in the IRB’s electronic system. The reviewer(s) will complete the appropriate review checklist to determine whether the research meets the regulatory criteria for approval. The same criteria of approval apply to reviews conducted via expedited review as to those conducted by the convened board. If the research does not meet the criteria for expedited review, then the reviewer will indicate that the research requires full review by the IRB and the research study will be placed on the next available agenda for an IRB meeting.

In reviewing the research, the reviewers will follow the Review Procedures described in Sections 7.2 and 7.4 and may exercise all of the authorities of the IRB except that the reviewers may not disapprove the research. A research activity may be disapproved only after review in accordance with the non-expedited procedure by the convened IRB (see Section 7.3).

If the reviewer determines the research may be approved, the reviewer documents that the research meets the regulatory criteria using the Review form/online system for approval and proceeds with the approval.

If modifications are required, the reviewer or responsible IRB staff member will notify the investigator via email /the IRB electronic system.

In the event that expedited review is carried out by more than one IRB member and the expedited reviewers disagree, the IRB Chair may make a final determination or the study will be referred to the convened IRB for review.

7.1.3 Informing the IRB

All members of the IRB will be apprised of all expedited review approvals by means of a list in the agenda for the next scheduled meeting. Any IRB member can request to review any study by contacting the IRB Office.