1. **NUS-IRB’S REVISED IRB FORMS & GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL, BEHAVIOURAL AND EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (SBER)**

The NUS-IRB has been updating its policies and forms in view of the Human Biomedical Research Act (HBRA), which regulates human biomedical research (HBR), and is currently being implemented in phases. Hence in 2017, the IRB’s review of new applications will be dichotomised into (a) HBR; and (b) all other research studies not covered by the HBRA (otherwise referred to as Social, Behavioural and Educational Research (SBER)).

The NUS-IRB intends to adopt a risk-based approach for SBER studies such that research is not unnecessarily stifled, while ensuring the safety and well-being of research participants.

The following IRB Forms and Guidelines for SBER will take effect from 1 Jan 2017:

- a) SBER IRB Application Form *(revised)*
- b) SBER IRB Exemption Form *(new)*
- c) SBER Guidelines – IRB Application Form *(new)*
- d) SBER Guidelines – IRB Exemption Form *(new)*
- e) SBER Guidelines – Participant Information Sheet & Consent Form *(new)*
- f) SBER Guidelines – Advertisements for Recruitment *(revised)*.

Although the IRB will continue to implement a “no wrong door” policy for applications submitted, all SBER researchers are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new Guidelines and use the new Forms from 1 Jan 2017, which can be downloaded from the NUS-IRB’s website at www.nus.edu.sg/irb.
2. REVISION TO CONTINUING REVIEW REPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SBER

SBER researchers will be notified if Continuing Review Reports will be required for their studies that are approved via Expedited Review.

All researchers are reminded that an application for protocol amendment is required should there be changes made to their studies after IRB approval.

3. AMENDMENTS TO ETHICS REVIEW OF STUDENT RESEARCH

The NUS-IRB has modified the Departmental Ethics Review Committee (DERC) guidelines to allow them to review postgraduate research studies that are not more than minimal risk.

Details of these changes and the DERC’s Reporting Template are in the revised Departmental Ethics Review Committee Guidelines (IRB-GUIDE-018) are available on the IRB’s website at www.nus.edu.sg/irb.

Please contact the IRB Secretariat at 6516 4311 or email irb@nus.edu.sg if you require further assistance.

---

About NUS-IRB

NUS Institutional Review Board (NUS-IRB) was established on 1st September 2003. This Board (also referred to as the Research Ethics Committee in some countries) will review, approve and monitor the ethical aspects of all NUS research projects that involve human subjects and human tissues/cells/data. Its main objective is to protect the rights and welfare of human research subjects in research activities conducted by NUS staff, researchers and students.

---

Visit our website:  http://www.nus.edu.sg/irb/