The NUS-IRB hopes to keep our researchers updated on the latest ethical issues and problems occurring around the world. This will help us keep abreast of international best practices to ensure that research done in Singapore will be well accepted, scientifically and ethically. These news alerts will be issued as and when incidents are reported.

In This Issue

1. MINOR REVISION TO SOCIAL, BEHAVIOURAL AND EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (SBER) GUIDELINES FOR IRB EXEMPTION FORM

Following the roll out of the new/revised IRB Forms and Guidelines for SBER on 1 Jan 2017, where the NUS-IRB adopted a risk-based approach for SBER studies, the IRB has experienced an increase in the SBER Exemption applications.

In our continuous efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of research participants, researchers will be now required to submit data collection instruments (e.g. questionnaires, interview and discussion guides) for SBER Exemption applications, if these will be used in their studies. This will take effect from 1 Sep 2017.

Please refer to the revised NUS-IRB SBER Exemption Form Guidelines (IRB-GUIDE-S02) which is available on the IRB’s website at www.nus.edu.sg/irb.

2. NUS-IRB REVIEW TIMELINES FOR NEW APPLICATIONS AND PROTOCOL AMENDMENTS

The review turnaround time (TAT) for any new IRB application or protocol amendment application to an approved study usually starts from the date of receipt of a complete submission to the NUS-IRB. The time from IRB submission to approval varies depending upon the type of review required.

Researchers frequently request that the IRB expedite a review. However, in general, applications are reviewed in the order in which they are received (“in queue”). Depending on the current volume of submissions, conflicting demands and other factors (e.g. delayed replies from researchers), the TAT may be affected.

To help researchers factor in adequate lead time during their IRB submissions, a more detailed estimated TAT is now available on the IRB’s website at www.nus.edu.sg/irb.

Please note this serves as a general guide only.

Contact Us

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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/