

September 7, 2010
IRB News: New FAQs and Application Forms

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and the new semester is starting off well. Below is an important announcement for all investigators conducting and/or planning research involving human participants:

New FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

The Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA) has recently developed a set of Frequently Asked Questions to help investigators in understanding IRB requirements, preparing consent forms and applications for IRB review, maintaining approval of research protocols, and other activities related to human participant research. The FAQs can be found on the IRB website at www.irb.cornell.edu/faq/. The IRB office invites and welcomes additional questions from researchers to help build the FAQs page to best meet the researchers' needs.

New IRB Application and Amendment Forms

The IRB has developed a new form for investigators to use for their Initial Approval Requests, and an Amendment Request form for changes to active protocols. The forms are being rolled out as Beta versions, to allow investigators to test their functionality and provide feedback to the IRB office regarding ease of use and clarity of questions asked.

The new forms are designed in a Dynamic Interactive PDF format, and have checkboxes and reminders to assist the investigators in providing the information commonly asked for by the IRB, and to prompt investigators to answer questions that are applicable to their research. For example, an investigator only using existing data sets will not be asked questions about data collection procedures.

The forms are available on the IRB website (www.irb.cornell.edu/forms) in addition to the current forms, and we strongly encourage although investigators to use the new forms as we believe that they will assist them and the IRB in the review and approval process for their protocols. We expect to phase out the older version of the forms in October 2010. Please contact the IRB office with any questions or feedback related to the new forms.

Best,
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