

IRB Policy 17b: IRB Member, Consultant, and IRB Staff Conflicting Interests

Revision Date: May 15 ,2007

IRB members are considered to have a conflicting interest whenever any one of the following are true:

- 1) The IRB Committee Member, Consultant, IRB staff or a member of their immediate family has a significant financial interest as defined in Policy 17a.
- 2) The IRB Committee Member, Consultant, IRB staff or a member of their immediate family is a member of the research team designing, conducting, or reporting the research presented in the protocol, or has an immediate family members involved in the design, conducting or reporting the research presented in the protocol.
- 3) The IRB Committee Member, Consultant, IRB staff, or a member of their immediate family has any other interest of any kind that the individual believes conflicts with his or her ability to objectively review a protocol.

I. Responsibility

- 1) At the beginning of each meeting, the IRB Chair calls for disclosure of conflicting interests on any agenda item. This includes, but is not limited to, initial reviews, continuing reviews, modifications, and reports of unanticipated problems.
- 2) IRB Committee Members and IRB staff are responsible to declare any conflicting interest to the IRB before review of the protocol.
- 3) IRB staff members are responsible to inform Consultants of this policy and identify any conflicting interest to the IRB before use of the Consultant.

II. Actions Taken with Conflicting Interests

A. IRB Members

- 1) An IRB Committee Member who declares a conflicting of interest may not participate in the expedited review process of any involved study. He/she must indicate that conflict and return the packet to the IRB Coordinator for re-assignment.
- 2) An IRB Committee Member who declares a conflicting of interest may not participate in the review of research at a convened meeting except to provide information requested by the IRB.

- 3) An IRB Committee Member who declares a conflicting of interest must leave the room during discussion and voting.
- 4) IRB Committee Members who are absent from the meeting room for a conflicting interest are not counted towards quorum when the vote on the study is question is taken.
- 5) The minutes will reflect that the IRB Committee Member was absent due to a conflicting interest.
- 6) The above policy includes initial review, continuing review, review of modifications, review of unanticipated problems involving risks to participants or others, and review of non-compliance with the regulations or IRB requirements.

B. IRB Staff

- 1) IRB staff must reveal any conflict of interest on any involved study, and alternate staff assignment as appropriate will be made by the Director

C. Consultants with Conflicting Interests

- 1) A conflict of interest form must be completed by the consultant prior to review, and a consultant may not review research if any conflict of interest is identified.

References:

ETSU Faculty Senate Handbook
VA Conflict of Interest Policy