

Waivers

DHHS provides for waiving or altering elements of informed consent under certain conditions.

Waiver of Consent

The IRB may approve a consent procedure which does not include, or which alters, some or all of the elements of informed consent, or waive the requirement to obtain informed consent provided one of the following sets of conditions exists and is documented:

- A. (Must meet one of the following criteria from section 1 as well as criteria number 2)
1. The research or demonstration project is to be conducted by or subject to the approval of state or local government officials and is designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine at least one of the following
 - a. public benefit or service programs;
 - b. procedures for obtaining benefits or services under these programs;
 - c. possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures;or
 - d. possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs
 2. AND the research could not practicably be carried out without the waiver or alteration.
- B. (Must meet all four criteria detailed below)
1. The research involves no more than minimal risk to the subjects.
 2. The waiver or alteration will not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the subjects.
 3. The research could not practicably be carried out without the waiver or alteration.
 4. Whenever appropriate, the subjects will be provided with additional pertinent information after participation.

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5. For studies subject to the revised Common Rule, if the research involves using identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens, the research could not practicably be carried out without using such information or biospecimens in an identifiable format

Waiver of Documentation of Informed Consent

Under certain conditions, the IRB can waive the requirement that the participant sign the consent form. However, waiver of documentation of informed consent does not constitute waiver of informed consent. The IRB reviews the written description of the information that will be provided to participants.

The IRB may waive the requirement for the investigator to obtain a signed consent form for some or all participants if it finds either:

- A. That the only record linking the subject and the research would be the consent document, and the principal risk would be potential harm resulting from a breach of confidentiality. Each participant will be asked whether the subject wants documentation linking the subject with the research, and the participant's wishes will govern.

OR

- B. That the research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects and involves no procedures for which written consent is normally required outside of the research context.

OR

- C. For studies subject to the revised Common Rule, it is not the cultural norm for subjects to sign such documents, as long as... the research is no more than minimal risk and an alternative documentation mechanism is used.

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FDA Research

For FDA research, the IRB may approve a consent procedure that does not include, or that alters, some or all of the elements of informed consent set forth in 21 CFR 50.25, or waive the requirements to obtain informed consent when the IRB finds and documents that:

1. The clinical investigation involves no more than minimal risk (as defined in 21 CFR 50.3(k) or 56.102(i)) to the subjects;
2. The waiver or alteration will not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the subjects;
3. The clinical investigation could not practicably be carried out without the waiver or alteration; and
4. Whenever appropriate, the subjects will be provided with additional pertinent information after participation