

## **Does your project require REB approval?**

**Research involving living human participants and research involving human biological materials requires ethics review and approval by an REB before the research can commence. In this context, research is defined as *an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation*. Research methodologies and activities that do not require REB activity are outlined below.**

### **Research not requiring REB Review According to the Tri-Council Policy Statement, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (TCPS):**

1. Research that relies exclusively on publicly available information, defined as any existing stored documentary material, records or publications, which may or may not include identifiable information. (Article 2.2)
2. Research that includes the observation of people in public places that (a) does not involve any intervention staged by the researcher, or direct interaction with individuals or groups; (b) does not have a reasonable expectation of privacy on the part of individuals or groups being observed; or (c) does not allow for the identification of specific individuals in the dissemination of research results. (Article 2.3)
3. Research that relies exclusively on secondary use of anonymous information, or anonymous human biological materials originally collected for a purpose other than the current research purpose, and from which identifiable information through the linkage of data from two or more anonymous sets of information cannot be made. (Article 2.4)

### **Activities not requiring REB Review According to the Tri-Council Policy Statement Revised, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (TCPS):**

1. Quality assurance and quality improvement studies, program evaluation activities, and performance reviews, or testing within normal educational requirements when used *exclusively* for assessment, management or improvement purposes. (Article 2.5)
2. Assessments of performance of an organization or its employees or students, within the mandate of the organization, or according to the terms and conditions of employment or training. Such data may later require REB review if data collected for such purposes was proposed as secondary information not originally intended for research but later used in that manner. (Article 2.5)
3. Creative practice activities that are not used to obtain responses from participants that will be analyzed to answer a research question. (Article 2.6)

**In cases where investigators question whether a project needs REB approval, please submit a short summary of your research question, the methodologies you plan to employ and descriptions of how the data will be used to the REB so we can determine whether the study meets standards for exemption.**

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