Human Research Protection Quality Improvement Program

The Ohio State University research community is deeply grateful to all of the individuals who volunteer to participate in our research studies, and we are strongly committed to ensuring that the safety and welfare of these participants are protected. Our Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) provide important safeguards for our human subjects research. We have also implemented a Quality Improvement (QI) program to develop additional resources, training, and education for investigators to make certain that Ohio State’s human subjects research activities are of the highest caliber.

The QI program monitors the activities of the IRBs and reviews the activities of staff in the Office of Responsible Research Practices (ORRP) to ensure that research protocols are being reviewed in a timely way, that investigators are receiving the best possible support and assistance from our staff, and that the institution is in compliance with regulations, institutional policies, and best practices for human subjects protection.

Beginning in spring quarter 2010, the QI program will be expanded to include direct outreach to investigators on active human subjects protocols. A team of quality improvement specialists will begin to review research practices for specific protocols and, where appropriate, suggest improvements. Specifically, the QI team will interview researchers and research staff, observe research practices, and review records from research protocols to ensure that all ethical standards and requirements are supported.

ORRP has designed several “self-assessment” tools to assist you in the review of your own research programs. These tools are available on the ORRP website under Quality Improvement Program. Frequently asked questions and additional information about the QI program are also available. Ongoing educational opportunities for research faculty and staff will be provided by the QI team and ORRP staff. For example, a new quarterly workshop that focuses on OSU IRB procedures, resources available through ORRP, and tips for efficiently navigating the IRB review process will be offered. Please visit the ORRP website at IRB Workshops/Seminars for the full list of available workshops and forums.

For more information, please see the Human Research Protections Program (HRPP) policy on Quality Improvement Activities. Questions regarding the QI program should be directed to Ellen Patricia (patricia.1@osu.edu).

As always, thank you for your many contributions to Ohio State research. The new knowledge, discoveries, and inventions created by our research community are at the core of our university mission.

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