



Tip Sheet: Research Ethics Board (REB) Review

The REB is comprised of members (including community representation) with expertise in research, ethics and laws. The REB is established by Trillium Health Partners' (THP) Board of Directors, to independently review the ethical acceptability of all research involving human participants that is being conducted under the auspices/jurisdiction of THP, in order to protect the rights and welfare of people who participate in research.

Why is it important?

- To ensure respect for human dignity in human research activities
- To protect the rights and welfare of research participants
- To ensure research participants are treated fairly and equitably
- To ensure appropriate and ethical procedures, practices and protocols in research activity (may include clinical trials, assessments of new protocols, or changes to existing protocols)

The REB ensures that:

- Individuals who participate in research do so voluntarily, with a fulsome understanding of the purpose, risks and benefits of research study.
- The safety and well-being of human participants are protected and any potential risks and benefits from the study are proportionate.
- Researchers are compliant with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements with respect to protection of privacy, and consent for the collection, use or disclosure of information about participants.
- Privacy and confidentiality risks are identified and minimized.
- Conflicts of interest are assessed and mitigated when conducting research
- There is adherence to ethical values and principles for conducting research

Resource: [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 \(2022\) \(ethics.gc.ca\)](https://www.ethics.gc.ca)

At Trillium Health Partners the REB:

- Meets monthly to review above minimal risk research
- Has a dedicated REB Coordinator that provides consistency, expertise and administrative support to the REB, and serve as a daily link between the REB and the research community.
- Provides a Research Ethics Consultation Service that is available for Investigators and project teams who are seeking advice regarding ethical issues pertaining to their research study.

REB Oversight and Review at THP pertain to:

- Research involving the participation of humans and/or the collection, use and disclosure information pertaining to a human being
- Human research conducted within the organization, or under the auspices of the organization

Questions to assess practice (e.g. during accreditation):

1. When do I seek ethical approval?
2. What resources are available to assist me in navigating the Research Ethics Process?
3. What is the composition of the REB, do they have community, patient or caregiver partners on the committee?

In my department / area we:

