Involving Nurses in Research and Navigating Nursing Research Committee Approval

Academy for Research Professionals

September 13, 2017

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Objectives

- Describe process for Nursing Research Committee NRC approval and tips for clear navigation.
- Discuss how to engage nurses from the Department of Nursing in your research protocols.

Section I, Part 2(k), page 18 of IRB Standard Operating Procedures

2. A nursing research committee [NRC]...

The University of Iowa Human Research Protection Program (HRPP)

Hawk IRB help

- Nursing Research Committee (NRC) if your study will be conducted within the Department of Nursing. Note: Your study must be approved by the NRC final approval can be granted by the IRB.
NRC approval to do research

Policy: Indications for NRC review
1. Studies that involve the participation of Department of Nursing Services and Patient Care (DON) staff members as participants.
2. Studies that involve employees within the DON as principal investigator or co-investigator.
3. Studies that involve investigation or evaluation of nursing activities of the unit or clinic (e.g., collecting data that is not part of usual care, administering nursing care in a manner that differs from standard care), must be reviewed to evaluate scientific merit, resources and burden for staff and patients.

Indications for NRC review
4. Nursing research that evaluates nursing practice even if not a part of regular nursing care (e.g., accesses existing patient or staff related databases at UIHC).
5. Modifications to existing IRB approved research proposals that include changes in nursing or nursing resource involvement.

Approval for investigators within DON
- Research conducted during working hours must be relevant to the staff member’s practice.
- Research that is proposed as part of an academic requirement must be approved by the investigator’s college or school before the proposal is brought before the NREC (Policy 12.004, Form 3).
Approval for investigators outside DON

- Proposals must be approved by the appropriate committee of the researcher's college, department, or agency before the proposal is brought before the NREC.

TIP: Proposals should be submitted to the NREC prior to or concurrent to the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

NRC approval dependent factors

- The complexity of care, condition of patients, number of personal contacts and the competing demands affecting the patients or staff.
- The additional workload the study might create on the clinical nursing unit (e.g., data collection, communication with research personnel, monitoring for side effects, and/or in-servicing for staff).
- The number of projects in which a group of patients or staff members is already involved.
- Over all quality and relevance of the study.
- The types of instruments to be used.

TIP: It is highly recommended that investigators consult with nurse managers to discuss feasibility.

Benefits of NRC review

- Make nurses in clinical areas aware of new research protocols
- Identify conflicting protocols
- Determine training needs
- Nursing resources negotiated up front
- Protect rights of patients and nurses
- HSO operations compliant
- IRB compliant

Procedure: Form 1

- Complete HawkIRB application
- Mark item V.26 yes if DON involved
- Generate a form 1 for routing

TIP: Avoid the paper version of Form 1, use the electronic version in Hawk IRB submission.

http://research.uiowa.edu/hso/index.php?gen=nuform.cfm
HawkIRB V.26

**TIP:** Clinical service areas are the units or clinics involved, so you will get signatures from those Nurse Managers and Clinical Directors.

**HawkIRB V.26**

**TIP:** Indicate activities for DON nurses only (not study coordinators or CRU staff). Frequently includes patient monitoring, medication administration. Should not include obtaining consent (or explain why this is necessary).

**Hawk IRB V.26**

**TIP:** Talk with the NM about best approach for education.

**TIP:** Talk with NM.

**TIP:** Budget for added nursing care, education, incentives when submitting funding requests.

**After you complete item V.26, you can generate NRC form 1**

**Form 1 electronic workflow**

- Complete form 1 in workflow as in IRB item V.26
- Select NM and CD for routing
- Send a heads up e-mail about study and request for signature
- Complete workflow notifies NRC

**Form 1 electronic workflow**

- Confirm with Kim Jordan that form 1 and materials are ready for NRC review
- Meetings are scheduled twice a month (2nd and 4th Wednesdays)
- Allow 2 weeks for NRC review, coordinated with meeting dates on 2nd and 4th Wednesday

**TIP:** Instead of generating Form 1 here, use workflow to create the form and obtain electronic signatures.

**TIP:** https://workflow.uiowa.edu/entry/new/2642
Form 1 electronic workflow

- Generate form 1 in IRB—other reviews attachments
- Complete sections not populated by item V.26
- Determine NM and CD for routing
- Send a heads up e-mail about study and request for signature
  - Attach for return by campus mail or scanned copy
  - Walk it around
- Submit form(s) with signatures to Kim Jordan, confirm other materials are ready for review
- Meetings are scheduled twice a month (2nd and 4th Wednesdays)
- Allow 2 weeks for NRC review, coordinated with meeting dates on 2nd and 4th Wednesday

Form 1 hardcopy alternative

- Two members review form 1, IRB protocol, consent documents etc.
- Contact study team if questions
- Summaries are distributed to NRC
- Reviewers present study
- NRC discussion and recommendations
- Vote

NRC review process

- Research procedures related to patient or nurse safety
- Nursing resources required
  - reimbursement
  - compensation
- Education
- Supplies/equipment that will be required to complete the research study
- Surveys and focus groups
  - Done during time off
  - Contact through NM, not direct e-mail
- Engage nursing!
**NRC approval notification**

- Approvals are signed by the Director NREQ on behalf of the Chief Nursing Officer.
- Unresolved issues, including signatures will get e-mail notice with question or action steps.
- Approval loaded in IRB by Kim Jordan.
- When final approval has been granted, the investigator will be notified by the Chair of the NREC via email.

**Modification**

**Engaging DON nurses**

- Protocol review
  - Feasibility
  - Clinical expertise
  - Procedures
- Nursing resources
- Education
- Study workflow
- Recruitment

- Roles
  - Participants
  - Champion
  - Collaborate
  - Consultant
  - Investigator

**Questions?**

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