Human Subjects Research Compliance Guide

The ACER Research Office (RO) is committed to fostering an environment that supports new scientific inquiry while maintaining compliance with applicable law, ethical principles, and professional standards.

Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators must ensure that their research team members conduct study procedures in accordance with ethical research principles. The National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research report, *Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research*—commonly known as the Belmont Report—and codified in Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 46, outlines the principles of Respect for Persons, Beneficence, and Justice.

Investigators may find these and other relevant guidance documents through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP). See policy guidance and international issues websites.

Federal guidelines require independent review of all protocols involving human subjects before any study activities may begin. This means no activities involving Metrocare clients, staff, service providers, or identifiable data may occur until the study has been reviewed and approved by Metrocare's IRB.

IRB review ensures an unbiased evaluation of risk, promotes participant safety, and confirms that research involving Metrocare clients or identifiable data complies with federal regulations and institutional policy.

External researchers must obtain approval from their home institution's IRB before submitting to Metrocare's IRB and must complete a fully executed Reliance Agreement. Metrocare staff and researchers collaborating with ACER may use Metrocare as the IRB of Record for eligible human subjects research.

Please contact the ACER Research Office by phone (**469-940-4117**) or email (**ACERResearch@metrocareservices.org**) with any questions.