Tips on applying to the IRB

Leave a lot of time! Median turnaround time last year was 26 business days for minimal risk studies, but it can sometimes be delayed much longer.

Read your consent form. Eighty percent of rejections are because of the consent form.

When in doubt, fill it out: there is no penalty for filling out too many forms! Common supplements:

* Any kind of genetics work requires the Genetic Research Supplement
* If you want to look over patient records to determine study eligibility, you’ll need a waiver of informed consent
* Working with NAMRU-6 in Lima requires the Department of Defense Supplement

HIPAA regulations do not apply outside the US; just make sure you comply with your local ethics committee.

For modifications or edits, use Word’s track changes when correcting your consent form; the IRB will ask for both a tracked changes and a “clean” copy. Use version numbers in the footer to help you keep track.

Use the PRISM toolkit (posted on our website) to help you translate your science to an eighth grade reading level.

Don’t get discouraged! Only 2% of studies are fully approved at the first submission. 28% get a conditional approval, and 70% are deferred!

Contact Nikki Eller for examples, templates, forms, and advice. (ellern@uw.edu)