Expedited Review

Expedited review applies to certain types of minimal risk research that are **federally funded or supported**. "Minimal risk" means that the probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater in and of themselves than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests.

To qualify for expedited review, minimal risk proposals must fit into one of seven categories outlined by the federal government. Those seven categories are listed on the IRB's Application for Expedited Review.

Expedited studies are reviewed by the IRB chair, or one or more experienced reviewers designated by the chair, rather than the full IRB. Expedited projects can be either retrospective or prospective. The federal Office for Human Research Protections posts a list of categories of research that qualify for expedited review.

Examples of expedited research include:

- Secondary data analysis, if identifiable data will be shared with external parties who are not subject to the HIPAA rules;
- Secondary research involving the analysis of biospecimens;
- Collection of small amounts of blood;
- Prospective collection of biological specimens for research purposes by noninvasive means, e.g., hair and nail clippings, deciduous teeth, saliva, dental plaque, mucosal cells;
- Collection of data through non-invasive procedures routinely employed in clinical practice;
- Collection of data from voice, video, digital, or image recordings made for research purposes;
- Research on individual or group characteristics using surveys, interviews, or focus groups (if not exempt);
- Research in which the primary risk is breach of confidentiality and the risk has been managed so that it is no more than minimal.

Informed consent requirements typically apply to studies that qualify for expedited review unless the project is retrospective. However, because the research is minimal risk, the consent form can often be simpler than the type of consent document used in a clinical trial. If the standard KUMC consent templates do not seem applicable to your study, please consult with IRB office staff for special assistance.