JOINT BRIDGEPOINT HEALTH - WEST PARK HEALTHCARE CENTRE– TORONTO CENTRAL COMMUNITY CARE ACCESS CENTRE (CCAC) – TORONTO GRACE HEALTH CENTRE RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD (JREB)
Research Policy

ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL

SUBJECT: Research Ethics Policy

POLICY NUMBER:
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DEVELOPED BY: **EFFECTIVE: June 24, 2008**
ISSUED BY: **REVISED:**

Policy Statement:

The goal of research at Bridgepoint Health, West Park Healthcare Centre, Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) or the Toronto Grace Health Centre (hereafter called the Partnering Institutions) is to create generalizable knowledge that will allow the care and service to our patients/clients to be improved and the wider healthcare system to benefit. The goal of the Joint Bridgepoint Health, West Park Healthcare Centre, Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) and Toronto Grace Health Centre Research Ethics Board (JREB)is to ensure that this research meets the meet the highest scientific and ethical standards. The authority for decisions made by the JREB is delegated by the Boards of Directors through the CEOs of the Partnering Institutions. While the JREB derives its authority from the Boards of Directors, in accordance with current standards for REBs outlined in the Tri-Council Policy Statement, the JREB is an administratively independent body within the Partnering Institutions and operates at arm's length from administrative, programmatic, and research structures within the Partnering Institutions.

All research involving human subjects conducted under the authority of the Partnering Institutions requires written approval by the JREB prior to the initiation of a research project. Included within the jurisdiction of the JREB are staff of the Partnering Institutions who are carrying out research as a member of these institutions regardless of whether this research is being carried out within or outside of these institutions. Additionally, the JREB has similar authority over investigators from other institutions who may wish to carry out research on the premises of the Partnering Institutions or with patients under the care of these institutions.

The JREB adheres to International[1,2], National[3,4,5] and Provincial[6] standards when providing oversight to the research carried out at the Partnering Institutions. The JREB subscribes to the following ethical principles that are commonly held and valued by diverse research disciplines:

- Respect for human dignity
- Respect for free and informed consent
- Respect for vulnerable persons
- Respect for privacy and confidentiality
- Respect for justice and inclusiveness
- Balancing harms and benefits
- Minimizing risk of harm
- Maximizing Benefit

The JREB follows the Tri-Council Policy Statement with regard to "proportionate review" whereby the more invasive the research, the greater the care should be in assessing the research. Proportionate assessment is intended to reserve the most intensive scrutiny, and correspondingly more protection, for the most invasive and ethically challenging research.

The JREB is responsible for the monitoring and continuing ethics review for all studies that it has approved until the termination of the study. All amendments to studies, new information that may alter the risk/benefit information for patients/clients, changes to Informed Consent Forms, and serious and unexpected adverse events must be submitted and approved by the JREB as part of the continuing review process.

The JREB is responsible for assessing and managing any actual or perceived Conflicts of Interest arising from the proposed research. Conflicts of interest may arise from the interests of the investigators, institutional staff, Partnering Institutions from a corporate perspective or the members of the JREB itself.

Details outlining the authority of the JREB can be found in the Terms of Reference for the JREB. Details outlining the procedures of the JREB can be found in the Operating Procedures for the JREB.

References:

[1] International Committee on Harmonization: Good Clinical Practice (GCP) – International Standard for Clinical Trials
[2] Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and FDA laws and requirements (US)
[3] Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, August 1998 – Canadian National Code for research ethcis
[4] Health Canada Division 5 of the *Food and Drug Act* Regulations – Canadian legislation with regard to the conduct of clinical trials in Canada which came into force September 2001.
[5] Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) - Canadian Federal Privacy Legislation in force in Ontario January 1, 2004
[6] Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 (PHIPA) – Ontario Privacy Legislation in force in Ontario November 1, 2004