

HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS CHECKLIST



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Has there been any consultation with the community before the submission of the proposal? If so, what kind and with whom?
- Have letters of support been included?
- Are there community partners (individuals, organizations, advisory groups, etc.) involved in the project?
- Are community members involved in collecting information or guiding the project?
- How will community members be acknowledged for their contributions? Will it be in the form of publication credits, remuneration (payment), or some other way? Is this adequate/fair?

COMMUNITY RESEARCH AGREEMENT

- Has a community research agreement been proposed to determine the responsibilities of community partners and researchers in the project? If so, who will represent the community to sign it?

RESEARCH METHODS

- Are research data management methods appropriate?

Things to think about

- length of time
- sensitive methodology
- ensuring confidentiality
- security and storage of files and data
- data access issues once the study is complete

RISKS AND BENEFITS

- Are there risks associated with this project? If so, are they clear? Do they affect a person or the community (or both or neither)?
- Are there benefits associated with this project? If so, are they clear?

ADVERTISEMENTS AND RECRUITMENT

- Are there advertisements to recruit participants or advertise the study? Are they appropriate?
- Are they bribing people to participate?

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Are the confidentiality protections appropriate? For example, what steps have they taken to make sure confidentiality will be maintained, and given the small populations of northern communities, are they adequate for the North?
- How do they propose to handle negative or sensitive results? Is this adequate/fair for the community?

PARTICIPANT WITHDRAWAL

- Are there appropriate mechanisms for participants to withdraw from the study?

FINANCIAL OR OTHER COMPENSATION:

- Is there compensation to participants?
- Is it appropriate to their time and effort?
- Is it coercive (does it influence them to participate when normally they wouldn't)?
- Do they propose dollar amounts of compensation to participants? If so, is this acceptable?
- What is the funding source?
- Will the funding source want rights over data or publication?

CONSENT FORMS

- Are they consistent with protocol?
- Is there a draft consent form submitted?
- Is the language (language and reading level) appropriate for participant population?
- Does it include a waiver of legal rights?
- Is the method of obtaining consent appropriate? Will it explained properly (i.e. by a person or through a video?)

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

- Is there a clear explanation of how the research results will be shared with the community?
- Is it in a form that community members will understand?

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Are there any conflicts of interest (including with funders or with participants)?
- Have they been appropriately managed?

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

- Are the Hypothesis/research questions appropriate for the region?
- Are the recruitment/sampling strategies appropriate?
- Are the study numbers justified?
- Has there been a scientific review and/or ethical review by the proponent's university, organization, or any other northern body?

ANY OTHER REVIEWER COMMENTS

Date & signature of primary reviewer