

Research Ethics

Healthcare research may involve not just hospitalized patients, but also people seen in outpatient clinics and programs, their families and caregivers, as well as university students, children, hospital volunteers, and people in the general community. **Research on humans cannot take place without it being reviewed and considered safe by a group of people who are trained and experienced to do so.**

The Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board (HiREB) is a subcommittee of the Hospitals' Medical Advisory Committees and is a jointly constituted board of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, Hamilton Health Sciences and McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences. It is committed to protecting research participants by ensuring that all research involving humans is both scientifically valid and ethically sound. *Our mandate is to safeguard the rights, safety and well-being of all research participants.* HiREB operates under the principles of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS2), and the International Conference on Harmonization: Good Clinical Practice (ICH GCP).

What does the HiREB do?

All research projects involving McMaster University, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and Hamilton Health Sciences physicians, staff, students, or patients, must obtain ethical approval from the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board (HiREB) before research can begin.

The HiREB reviews and approves research projects, ensuring they meet acceptable ethical and scientific standards. The HiREB also provides advice on the ethical, scientific and technical aspects of planning research projects.

When do I contact the HiREB?

Researchers/Staff: Prior to submission of a new study, we welcome any researcher/staff member to contact the office for support and assistance in completing the application form. Our mandate is to provide direction and education to our researchers and we provide both one-on-one assistance or will arrange education sessions to larger groups on a specific topic if requested. The HiREB website outlines the two monthly submission deadlines and meeting dates.

Patients/Families: If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office of the Chair of HiREB at **905 521-2100, ext. 42013**. (This information is also included on the Information & Consent form given to research participants during the consenting process.)

Further information on Research Ethics and the HiREB is available at: www.HIREB.ca