

Department: UAMS Institutional Review Board
Policy Number: 1.1
Section: Principles and Authority
Effective Date: July 31, 2002
Revision Date: November 18, 2002; March 5, 2004;
February 8, 2005; January 24, 2011

SUBJECT: Principles Governing the Committee

All human subject research conducted by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), its staff, employees, faculty, students and any institution or individual using the UAMS IRB, is guided by the ethical principles set forth in the report of the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research (the "Belmont Report") .

The three basic principles relevant to the protection of human subjects in biomedical and behavioral research as set forth in the Belmont Report are:

Respect for Persons: recognition of the personal dignity and autonomy of individuals and special protection of those persons with diminished autonomy;

Beneficence: obligation to protect persons from harm by maximizing anticipated benefits and minimizing possible risks of harm; and

Justice: fairness in the distribution of research benefits and burdens.

The IRB operates under a Federalwide Assurance (FWA) in which it agrees to uphold the ethical principles of the Belmont Report and to apply 45 CFR 46 and its Subparts to all human subject research, regardless of funding source. In addition, the IRB operates according to state and institutional regulations.

In order for the IRB to meet its ethical principles for review and remain free from undue influence, it is critical that the confidentiality of all IRB proceedings be maintained.

Access to the IRB database, protocols provided for review or consultation, and attendance at IRB meetings will potentially provide information concerning research ideas, confidential information of companies, pre-marketing data and many other kinds of confidential and sensitive personal and business materials.

Access to this information is for IRB decision making purposes only, and use of such information for any other purpose would be a violation of the confidentiality agreement previously signed and the legal and ethical principles by which the University of Arkansas is bound.

All discussions, meetings, documents and decisions of the IRB must be kept confidential.

The IRB Director or Vice Chancellor for Research should be notified of any individual (i.e. colleague, media representative) attempting to obtain information about specific IRB proceedings. Media representatives must also be directed to the UAMS Office of Communications and Marketing.