

Department: UAMS Institutional Review Board
Policy Number: 4.1
Section: Committee Operations
Effective Date: July 31, 2002
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November 18, 2002

SUBJECT: Number of Committees

Policy:

The number and composition of IRB Committees at UAMS may vary at times to support the volume and type of human research to be reviewed in a thorough and timely manner. Composition of the individual committees include disciplines from both biomedical and the behavioral /social sciences. Committees with a different focus may be added if warranted to meet the needs of the research program.

Procedure:

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

All IRBs will be constituted according to these policies and will be qualified to review human participant research studies that examine both clinical outcomes and human behavior.

Clinical outcomes research involves studies of the administration of drugs, supplements, medicines, surgical and other clinical procedures and diagnostics, medical devices, treatment regimens, and clinically applied interventions affecting the progression, symptom management, diagnosis or prevention of disease. Methods include the administration of these techniques, substances, and procedures to measure endpoints and outcome effectiveness.

Human behavioral studies might involve the examination of interpersonal interaction, observation, group or individual behavior relating to interventions or experiences. Methods include but are not exclusive to open-ended questions or interview, or surveys inquiring about individual or group knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, experiences or behavioral activities. These studies may test educational, motivational and/or behavioral intervention effectiveness and may include purposive or convenience samples that are not statistically derived. Studies may involve the use of qualitative traditions that follow a long history of practice, that are not necessarily required to be compared to quantitative research methodologies, but involve the use of human participants that must be protected from harm. A purposive sample is a non-random sample chosen based on specific criteria established by the researcher for a specific purpose. A convenience sample is a non-random sample chosen because of the quick availability, geographically or institutionally. Neither one of the previously mentioned methods is intended to be compared to quantitative sampling techniques..

Finally, one committee shall be established to examine, monitor and appropriately classify issues of non-compliance in accordance with policy 2.6 Reporting, to determine whether reporting is required.