

Florida State University Policy 7-IRB-24

Title of Policy: Research Involving Pregnant Women, Human Fetuses and Neonates

Responsible Executive: Gary K. Ostrander

Approving Official: Gary K. Ostrander

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Revised _____

I. INTRODUCTION

This policy outlines the additional requirements and conditions for human subject research that involves pregnant women, human fetuses and neonates. The additional requirements are imposed under existing IRB policies and other applicable federal, state, or local laws.

II. POLICY

1. This policy applies to all research, development, and related activities involving pregnant women, the fetus, and neonates. The requirements within this policy are in addition to those imposed under existing IRB policies and other applicable federal, state, or local laws.
2. Definitions as used in this policy shall mean as follows:
 - a) “Pregnancy” encompasses the period of time from implantation until delivery. A woman shall be presumed to be pregnant if she exhibits any of the pertinent presumptive signs of pregnancy, such as missed menses, until the results of a pregnancy test are negative or until delivery.
 - b) “Fetus” means the product of conception from implantation until delivery.
 - c) “Neonate” means a newborn.
 - d) “Viable” as it pertains to the neonate, means being able, after delivery, to survive (given the benefit of available medical therapy) to the point of independently maintaining heartbeat and respiration. If a neonate is viable then it may be included in research only to the extent permitted and in accordance with the requirements of subparts A and D of

45 CFR 46.

- e) “Dead fetus” means a fetus that exhibits neither heartbeat, spontaneous respiratory activity, spontaneous movement of voluntary muscles, nor pulsation of the umbilical cord.
- f) “Nonviable neonate” means a neonate after delivery that, although living is not viable.

3. Pregnant women or fetuses may be involved in research if all of the following conditions are met:

- a) Where scientifically appropriate, preclinical studies, including studies on pregnant animals, and clinical studies, including studies on nonpregnant women, have been conducted and provide data for assessing potential risks to pregnant women and fetuses;
- b) The risk to the fetus is caused solely by interventions or procedures that hold out the prospect of direct benefit for the woman or the fetus; or if there is no such prospect of benefit, the risk to the fetus is not greater than minimal and the purpose of the research is the development of important biomedical knowledge which cannot be obtained by any other means.
- c) Any risk is the least possible for achieving the objectives of the research;
- d) If the research holds out the prospect of direct benefit to the pregnant woman, the prospect of a direct benefit both to the pregnant woman and the fetus, or no prospect of benefit for the woman nor the fetus when the risk to the fetus is not greater than minimal and the purpose of the research is the development of important biomedical knowledge that cannot be obtained by any other means, her consent is obtained in accord with the informed consent provisions of subpart A of 45 CFR 46.
- e) If the research holds out the prospect of direct benefit solely to the fetus then the consent of the pregnant woman and the father is obtained in accord with the informed consent provisions of subpart A of 45 CFR 46, except that the father’s consent need not be obtained if he is unable to consent because of unavailability, incompetence, or temporary incapacity or the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.
- f) Each individual providing consent under paragraphs (d) or (e) above is fully informed regarding the reasonably foreseeable impact of the research on the fetus or neonate;
- g) For children as defined in 45 CFR 46.402 (a) who are pregnant, assent and permission are obtained in accord with the provisions of subpart D of 45 CFR 46.
- h) No inducements, monetary or otherwise, will be offered to terminate a pregnancy;
- i) Individuals engaged in the research will have no part in any decisions as to the timing, method, or procedures used to terminate a pregnancy; and
- j) Individuals engaged in the research will have no part in determining the viability of a neonate.

4. Additional protection is required for research involving neonates. A neonate of uncertain viability and nonviable neonates may be involved in research if all of the following conditions are met:

- a) Where scientifically appropriate, preclinical and clinical studies have been conducted and provide data for assessing potential risks to neonates.
- b) Each individual providing consent as required in this paragraph (4) have been met as applicable.
- c) Pertaining to neonates of uncertain viability, until it has been ascertained whether or not a neonate is viable, a neonate may not be involved in research covered by this subpart unless the following additional conditions are met:
 - The IRB determines that the research holds out the prospect of enhancing the probability of survival of the neonate to the point of viability, and any risk is the least possible for achieving that objective, or the purpose of the research is the development of important biomedical knowledge which cannot be obtained by other means and there will be no added risk to the neonate resulting from the research; and
 - The legally effective informed consent of either parent of the neonate or, if neither parent is able to consent because of unavailability, incompetence, or temporary incapacity, the legally effective informed consent of either parent's legally authorized representative is obtained in accord with subpart A of 45 CFR 46, except that the consent of the father or his legally authorized representative need not be obtained if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.
- d) Pertaining to nonviable neonates, after delivery nonviable neonates may not be involved in research covered by this subpart unless all of the following additional conditions are met:
 - Vital functions of the neonate will not be artificially maintained;
 - The research will not terminate the heartbeat or respiration of the neonate;
 - There will be no added risk to the neonate resulting from the research;
 - The purpose of the research is the development of important biomedical knowledge that cannot be obtained by other means; and
 - The legally effective informed consent of both parents of the neonate is obtained in accord with subpart A of 45 CFR 46, except that the waiver and alteration provisions of 45 CFR 46.116 c and (d) do not apply. However, if either parent is unable to consent because of unavailability, incompetence, or temporary incapacity, the informed consent of one parent of a nonviable neonate will suffice to meet the requirements of this paragraph, except that the consent of the father need not be obtained if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. The consent of a legally authorized representative of either or both of the parents of a nonviable neonate will not suffice to meet the requirements of this paragraph.
- e) Pertaining to viable neonates, a neonate, after delivery, that has been determined to be viable may be included in research only to the extent permitted by and in accord by the requirements of subparts A and D of 45 CFR 46.

- 5) Research involving, after delivery, the placenta; the dead fetus; macerated fetal material; or cells, tissue, or organs excised from a dead fetus, shall be conducted only in accord with any applicable Federal, State, or local laws and regulations regarding such activities. Note: If information associated with material described here within is recorded for research purposes in a manner that living individuals can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to those individuals, those individuals are research subjects and all pertinent subparts of 45 CFR 46 are applicable.

- 6) Research not otherwise approvable which presents an opportunity to understand, prevent, or alleviate a serious problem affecting the health or welfare of pregnant women, fetuses, or neonates. Note that such research may be conducted or funded by HHS pursuant to the requirements set out in 45 CFR 46.207.

III. LEGAL SUPPORT, JUSTIFICATION, AND REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

BOG 1.001(3)(m), 45 CFR 46.204 – 207