**INSTRUCTIONS:**

* **USE** this template if your study involves: (1) basic, medical or clinical research studies that involve health-related interventions; (2) use of pharmaceutical or controlled drugs, devices, biologics, dietary/nutritional supplements or combination products; (3) a clinical trial[[1]](#footnote-1); or (4) collection and use of human biological specimens. If your study involves social, behavioral or educational research and does NOT involve (1)-(4) above, use TEMPLATE SBS PROTOCOL (HRP-503a).
* Use this “TEMPLATE PROTOCOL (HRP-503)” to prepare a document with the information from following sections.
* Depending on the nature of your study, some sections may not be applicable. If so mark as “NA”, but do not delete the section, otherwise your protocol will be returned to you for correction. For example, research involving a retrospective chart review may have many sections with “NA.”
* Keep an electronic copy; you will need to modify this copy when making changes.
* As you are writing the protocol, remove all instructions (but not section headers) in italics so that the instructions are not contained in the final version of your protocol.

**PROTOCOL TITLE:**

*Include the full protocol title.*

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

*Name*

*Department*

*Telephone Number*

*Email Address*

**VERSION NUMBER/DATE:**

*Include the version number and date of this protocol.*

**REVISION HISTORY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Revision #** | **Version Date** | **Summary of Changes** | **Consent Change?** |
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# Study Summary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Study Title** |  |
| **Study Design** |  |
| **Primary Objective** |  |
| **Secondary Objective(s)** |  |
| **Research Intervention(s)/ Investigational Agent(s)** |  |
| **IND/IDE #**  (see section 5) |  |
| **Study Population** |  |
| **Sample Size** |  |
| **Study Duration for individual participants** |  |
| **Study Specific Abbreviations/ Definitions** |  |

# Objectives

* 1. Describe the purpose, specific aims, or objectives.
  2. State the hypotheses to be tested.

# Background

* 1. Describe the relevant prior experience and gaps in current knowledge.
  2. Describe any relevant preliminary data.
  3. Provide the scientific or scholarly background for, rationale for, and significance of the research based on the existing literature and how will it add to existing knowledge.

# Study Endpoints

* 1. Describe the primary and secondary study endpoints.
  2. Describe any primary or secondary safety endpoints.

# Study Intervention/Investigational Agent

* 1. *Description: Describe the study intervention and/or investigational agent (e.g., drug, device) that is being evaluated. When used in research, ALL drugs, devices and other test articles are highly regulated, especially when the article is the object of the investigation or study. See the following IMPORTANT NOTES:*
     + *In addition to pharmacologics, some foods, biological products and dietary supplements may also be regulated as “drugs”.* *To see how all of these may be regulated by FDA, see our Drug algorithm, accessible on our* [*Decision Trees*](https://www.research.fsu.edu/research-offices/ohsp/decision-trees/) *web page; scroll down to “FDA-regulated Products and Test Articles” and click on our FDA Drug algorithm.*
     + *The term “device” is construed broadly, and may include any instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant, in vitro reagent, or other similar or related article, including any component, part, accessory* ***or software/applications (“apps”)****. Software and apps may be construed as a regulated “device” when the software or app is used for a health-related purpose. To see how devices may be regulated by the FDA, see our Device algorithm, accessible on our* [*Decision Trees*](https://www.research.fsu.edu/research-offices/ohsp/decision-trees/) *web page; scroll down to “FDA-regulated Products and Test Articles” and click on our FDA Device algorithm.*
  2. Drug/Device Handling: If the research involves a drug, device or other test article, whether or not the article is the object of the study, describe your plans to store, handle, and administer those drugs or devices so that they will be used only on subjects and be used only by authorized investigators.
     + If the control of the drugs or devices used in this protocol will be accomplished by following an established, approved organizational SOP (e.g., Research Pharmacy SOP for the Control of Investigational Drugs, etc.), please reference that SOP in this section.
  3. If the drug is investigational (has an IND) or the device has an IDE or a claim of abbreviated IDE (non-significant risk device), approved or cleared by the FDA, include the following information:
     + Identify the holder of the IND/IDE/Abbreviated IDE.
     + Explain procedures followed to comply with sponsor requirements for FDA regulated research for the following, and provide official documentation of FDA approval (e.g., IND/IDE number) or clearance as well as approved or cleared labels and labelling (to include descriptions of intended use and indications for use):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Applicable to:*** | | |
| ***FDA Regulation*** | ***IND Studies*** | ***IDE studies*** | ***Abbreviated IDE studies*** |
| ***21 CFR 11*** | ***X*** | ***X*** |  |
| ***21 CFR 54*** | ***X*** | ***X*** |  |
| ***21 CFR 210*** | ***X*** |  |  |
| ***21 CFR 211*** | ***X*** |  |  |
| ***21 CFR 312*** | ***X*** |  |  |
| ***21 CFR 812*** |  | ***X*** | ***X*** |
| ***21 CFR 820*** |  | ***X*** |  |

* + - IF there is no documentation of FDA approval or clearance by the FDA, then enter a statement to that effect, including a statement explaining whether and how such approval or clearance is in-process.

# Procedures Involved

* 1. Describe and explain the study design.
  2. Provide a description of all research procedures being performed and when they are performed, including procedures being performed to monitor subjects for safety or minimize risks.
  3. Describe:
     + Procedures performed to lessen the probability or magnitude of risks.
     + All drugs and devices used in the research and the purpose of their use, and their regulatory approval status.
     + The source records that will be used to collect data about subjects. (Attach all surveys, scripts, and data collection forms.)
  4. Describe what data will be collected during the study and how that data will be obtained. Note that IF the data will include any health information that is subject to the HIPAA Privacy Rule, refer to the IRB’s HIPAA requirements [[link](https://www.research.fsu.edu/research-offices/ohsp/hipaa-in-research/)] and follow any applicable instruction accordingly, including describing how the HIPAA Privacy Rule requirement will specifically be implemented in sections 17 (Data Management and Confidentiality) and 19 (Provisions to Protect the Privacy Interests of Subjects) of this protocol.
  5. If there are plans for long-term follow-up (once all research related procedures are complete), what data will be collected during this period.
  6. For Humanitarian Use Device (HUD) uses provide a description of the device, a summary of how you propose to use the device, including a description of any screening procedures, the HUD procedure, and any patient follow-up visits, tests or procedures.

# Data and Specimen Banking

* 1. If data or specimens will be banked for future use, describe where the specimens will be stored, how long they will be stored, how the specimens will be accessed, and who will have access to the specimens.
  2. List the data to be stored or associated with each specimen.
  3. Describe the procedures to release data or specimens, including: the process to request a release, approvals required for release, who can obtain data or specimens, and the data to be provided with specimens.

# Sharing of Results with Subjects

* 1. Describe whether results (study results or individual subject results, such as results of investigational diagnostic tests, genetic tests, or incidental findings) will be shared with subjects or others (e.g., the subject’s primary care physicians) and if so, describe how the results will be shared.

# Study Timelines

* 1. Describe:
     + The duration of an individual subject’s participation in the study.
     + The duration anticipated to enroll all study subjects.
     + The estimated date for the investigators to complete this study (complete primary analyses)

# Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

* 1. Describe how individuals will be screened for eligibility.
  2. Describe the criteria that define who will be included or excluded in your final study sample.
  3. Indicate specifically whether you will include or exclude each of the following special populations: (You may not include members of the above populations as subjects in your research unless you indicate this in your inclusion criteria.)
     + Adults unable to consent
     + Individuals who are not yet adults (infants, children, teenagers)
     + Pregnant women
     + Prisoners

# Vulnerable Populations

* 1. If the research involves individuals who are vulnerable to coercion or undue influence, describe additional safeguards included to protect their rights and welfare.
     + If the research involves pregnant women, review “CHECKLIST: Pregnant Women (HRP-412)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information.
     + If the research involves prisoners, review “CHECKLIST: Prisoners (HRP-415)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information.
     + If the research involves persons who have not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved in the research (“children”), review the “CHECKLIST: Children (HRP-416)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information.
     + If the research involves cognitively impaired adults, review “CHECKLIST: Cognitively Impaired Adults (HRP-417)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information.

# Local Number of Subjects

* 1. Indicate the total number of subjects to be accrued locally.
  2. If applicable, distinguish between the number of subjects who are expected to be enrolled and screened, and the number of subjects needed to complete the research procedures (i.e., numbers of subjects excluding screen failures.)

# Recruitment Methods

* 1. Describe when, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited. If recruitment will involve a non-FSU site, describe whether site approval for recruitment is required, and attach documentation of site approval.
  2. Describe the source of subjects.
  3. Describe the methods that will be used to identify potential subjects.
  4. Describe materials that will be used to recruit subjects. (Attach copies of these documents with the application. For advertisements, attach the final copy of printed advertisements. When advertisements are taped for broadcast, attach the final audio/video tape. You may submit the wording of the advertisement prior to taping to preclude re-taping because of inappropriate wording, provided the IRB reviews the final audio/video tape.)
  5. Describe as applicable whether and how subjects will be paid, earn course or other credits, reimbursed or provided with any financial or other incentive, token or gift for taking part in the research. Include a description and schedule of the total amount or value as well as the timing of any payments, credits, reimbursement or other incentive, token or gift. Indicate how if at all any amount is pro-rated for research visit or activity completion, and whether and how subjects’ refusal to answer any question or subjects’ withdrawal from or discontinuing taking part in the study or any study activity will reduce or preclude subjects from earning part or all of such any payment, credit, reimbursement or other incentive, token or gift.

Also describe the proposed method (how, by whom, form etc.) of payment/disbursement. While payment should not be contingent upon completion of the entire study, a proportion or progressive partial payment as an incentive for completion of the study is acceptable.

Refer to this FSU link regarding use of gift cards: https://procurement.fsu.edu/vendors/NationalGiftCard.

Refer to this FSU Controller link regarding use of cash payments for human subject incentive payments: https://controller.vpfa.fsu.edu/services/accounts-payable/unencumbered-payments/employee-cash-advance-requests.

* 1. Describe as applicable whether and how student subjects will be provided with course or other academic credit for taking part in the study. Include a description about whether student subjects’ refusal to answer any question or withdrawal from or discontinuing taking part in the study or any study activity will reduce or preclude student subjects from earning part or all of such credit.

# Withdrawal of Subjects

* 1. Describe anticipated circumstances under which subjects will be withdrawn from the research without their consent.
  2. Describe any procedures for orderly termination.
  3. Describe procedures that will be followed when subjects withdraw from the research, including partial withdrawal from procedures with continued data collection.

# Risks to Subjects

* 1. List the reasonably foreseeable risks, discomforts, hazards, or inconveniences to the subjects related the subjects’ participation in the research. Include as may be useful for the IRB’s consideration, a description of the probability, magnitude, duration, and reversibility of the risks. Consider physical, psychological, social, legal, and economic risks. For each of these risks, describe in detail how the risks will be minimized.

If information about the study’s actual purpose will in any way be withheld from study subjects, you are required to describe here that you will: (a) as part of the consent process provide subjects with a statement to the effect that subjects may not be made aware of some features about the study, such as its exact purpose, study questions and materials, or subjects’ responses that you would like to collect, and that subjects will be provided with additional information about the study at the end of their participation or at any time they withdraw, (b) debrief subjects at the end of their participation or at any time they withdraw, and (c) provide the IRB with a copy of all materials that will be used to debrief subjects.

* 1. If applicable, indicate which procedures may have risks to the subjects that are currently unforeseeable.
  2. If applicable, indicate which procedures may have risks to an embryo or fetus should the subject be or become pregnant.
  3. If applicable, describe risks to others who are not subjects.

# Potential Benefits to Subjects

* 1. Describe the potential benefits that individual subjects may experience from taking part in the research. Include as may be useful for the IRB’s consideration, the probability, magnitude, and duration of the potential benefits.
  2. Indicate if there is no direct benefit. Do not include benefits to society or others. Also, payment to research subjects for participation in studies is not considered a benefit so do not list payment to research subjects in this section; if a recruitment incentive will be offered, described this in section 13 under Recruitment Methods.

# Data Management and Confidentiality

* 1. Describe the data analysis plan, including any statistical procedures or power analysis.
  2. Describe the steps that will be taken to secure the data (e.g., training, authorization of access, password protection, encryption, physical controls, certificates of confidentiality, and separation of identifiers and data) during storage, use, and transmission.
  3. Describe any procedures that will be used for quality control of collected data.
  4. Describe how data or specimens will be handled study-wide:
     + What information will be included in that data or associated with the specimens?
     + Where and how data or specimens will be stored?
     + How long the data or specimens will be stored?
     + Who will have access to the data or specimens?
     + Who is responsible for receipt or transmission of the data or specimens?
     + How data or specimens will be transported?

# Provisions to Monitor the Data to Ensure the Safety of Subjects

This section is required for any study that may involve: (1) any harm or discomfort for which the probability or magnitude is greater than those that may be ordinarily encountered by healthy persons in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or test; (2) a clinical trial; (3) a FDA-regulated product(s) (e.g., drugs, devices, biologics, nutritional supplements or combination products); and/or (4) is funded by any federal department or agency.

* 1. Describe:
     + The plan to periodically evaluate the data collected regarding both harms and benefits to determine whether subjects remain safe. The plan might include establishing a data monitoring committee and a plan for reporting data monitoring committee findings to the IRB and the sponsor.
     + What data are reviewed, including safety data, untoward events, and efficacy data.
     + How the safety information will be collected (e.g., with case report forms, at study visits, by telephone calls with participants).
     + The frequency of data collection, including when safety data collection starts.
     + Who will review the data.
     + The frequency or periodicity of review of cumulative data.
     + The statistical tests for analyzing the safety data to determine whether harm is occurring.
     + Any conditions that trigger an immediate suspension of the research.

See our Clinical Trials web page at <https://www.research.fsu.edu/research-offices/ohsp/clinical-trials/> to obtain more information and instructions about this and other requirements for clinical trials.

# Provisions to Protect the Privacy Interests of Subjects

* 1. Describe the steps that will be taken to protect subjects’ privacy interests. “Privacy interest” refers to a person’s desire to place limits on whom they interact or whom they provide personal information.
  2. Describe what steps you will take to make the subjects feel at ease with the research situation in terms of the questions being asked and the procedures being performed. “At ease” does not refer to physical discomfort, but the sense of intrusiveness a subject might experience in response to questions, examinations, and procedures.
  3. Indicate how the research team is permitted to access any sources of information about the subjects.

# Compensation for Research-Related Injury

This section is required for any study that may involve: (1) any harm or discomfort for which the probability or magnitude is greater than those that may be ordinarily encountered by healthy persons in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or test; (2) a clinical trial; (3) a FDA-regulated product(s) (e.g., drugs, devices, biologics, nutritional supplements or combination products); and/or (4) is funded by any federal department or agency:

* 1. Describe what specific arrangements and referrals will be made in the event a subject experiences a research related injury.
  2. Describe the available compensation in the event of research related injury.
  3. Provide a copy of contract language, if any, relevant to compensation for research-related injury.

# Economic Burden to Subjects

* 1. Describe any costs that subjects may be responsible for because of participation in the research.

# Consent Process

* 1. Indicate whether you will you be obtaining consent, and if so describe:
     + Where will the consent process take place
     + Any waiting period available between informing the prospective subject and obtaining the consent.
     + Any process to ensure ongoing consent.
     + Whether you will be following “SOP: Informed Consent Process for Research (HRP-090).” If not, describe:
       - The role of the individuals listed in the application as being involved in the consent process.
       - The time that will be devoted to the consent discussion.
       - Steps that will be taken to minimize the possibility of coercion or undue influence.
       - Steps that will be taken to ensure the subjects’ understanding.

**Non-English Speaking Subjects**

* + - Indicate what language(s) other than English are understood by prospective subjects or representatives.
    - If subjects who do not speak English will be enrolled, describe the process to ensure that the oral and written information provided to those subjects will be in that language. Indicate the language that will be used by those obtaining consent.

**Waiver or Alteration of Consent Process (consent will not be obtained, required information will not be disclosed, or the research involves deception)**

* + - Review the “CHECKLIST: Waiver or Alteration of Consent Process (HRP-410)” to ensure you have provided sufficient information for the IRB to make these determinations.

**Subjects who are not yet adults (infants, children, teenagers)**

* + - Describe the criteria that will be used to determine whether a prospective subject has not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved in the research under the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which the research will be conducted. (E.g., individuals under the age of 18 years.)
      * For research conducted in the state, review “SOP: Legally Authorized Representatives, Children, and Guardians (HRP-013)” to be aware of which individuals in the state meet the definition of “children.”
      * For research conducted outside of the state, provide information that describes which persons have not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved the research, under the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which research will be conducted. One method of obtaining this information is to have a legal counsel or authority review your protocol along the definition of “children” in “SOP: Legally Authorized Representatives, Children, and Guardians (HRP-013).”
    - Describe whether parental permission will be obtained from:
      * Both parents unless one parent is deceased, unknown, incompetent, or not reasonably available, or when only one parent has legal responsibility for the care and custody of the child.
      * One parent even if the other parent is alive, known, competent, reasonably available, and shares legal responsibility for the care and custody of the child.
    - Describe whether permission will be obtained from individuals other than parents, and if so, who will be allowed to provide permission. Describe the process used to determine these individuals’ authority to consent to each child’s general medical care.
    - Indicate whether assent will be obtained from all, some, or none of the children. If assent will be obtained from some children, indicate which children will be required to assent.
    - When assent of children is obtained describe whether and how it will be documented.

**Cognitively Impaired Adults**

* + - Describe the process to determine whether an individual is capable of consent. The IRB allows the person obtaining assent to document assent on the consent document and does not routinely require assent documents and does not routinely require children to sign assent documents.

**Adults Unable to Consent**

* + - List the individuals from whom permission will be obtained in order of priority. (E.g., durable power of attorney for health care, court appointed guardian for health care decisions, spouse, and adult child.)
      * For research conducted in the state, review “SOP: Legally Authorized Representatives, Children, and Guardians (HRP-013)” to be aware of which individuals in the state meet the definition of “legally authorized representative.”
      * For research conducted outside of the state, provide information that describes which individuals are authorized under applicable law to consent on behalf of a prospective subject to their participation in the procedure(s) involved in this research. One method of obtaining this information is to have a legal counsel or authority review your protocol along the definition of “legally authorized representative” in “SOP: Legally Authorized Representatives, Children, and Guardians (HRP-013).”
    - Describe the process for assent of the subjects. Indicate whether:
      * Assent will be required of all, some, or none of the subjects. If some, indicated, which subjects will be required to assent and which will not.
      * If assent will not be obtained from some or all subjects, an explanation of why not.
      * Describe whether assent of the subjects will be documented and the process to document assent. The IRB allows the person obtaining assent to document assent on the consent document and does not routinely require assent documents and does not routinely require subjects to sign assent documents.

**Adults Unable to Consent**

* + - For HUD uses provide a description of how the patient will be informed of the potential risks and benefits of the HUD and any procedures associated with its use.

# Process to Document Consent in Writing

* 1. Describe whether you will be following “SOP: Written Documentation of Consent (HRP-091).” If not, describe whether and how consent of the subject will be documented in writing.
  2. If your research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects and involves no procedures for which written documentation of consent is normally required outside of the research context, the IRB will generally waive the requirement to obtain written documentation of consent.
  3. (If you will document consent in writing, attach a consent document. If you will obtain consent, but not document consent in writing, attach a consent script. Review “CHECKLIST: Waiver of Written Documentation of Consent (HRP-411)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information. You may use “TEMPLATE CONSENT DOCUMENT (HRP-502)”to create the consent document or script.)

# Setting

* 1. Describe the sites or locations where your research team will conduct the research.
     + Identify where your research team will identify and recruit potential subjects.
     + Identify where research procedures will be performed.
     + Describe the composition and involvement of any community advisory board.
     + For research conducted outside of the organization and its affiliates describe:
       - Site-specific regulations or customs affecting the research for research outside the organization.
       - Local scientific and ethical review structure outside the organization.
     + Describe non-FSU site approval to conduct research at any non-FSU site or location and attach approval documentation. If no such approval was required, so state and be prepared to provide documentation. Studies involving non-FSU sites, institutions or agencies, such as TMH, CRMC, FAMU, state agencies and other organizations, may require those sites' IRB, research review or other approvals. Before submitting your studies for FSU IRB review, you must contact such sites to ascertain their review requirements (including as may be applicable payment of their IRB review fees, such as for TMH) and comply accordingly. The FSU IRB may require documentation of such site contact.
     + Collaborations involving TMH are subject to specific requirements; click [here](https://ocra.fsu.edu/clinical-collaborators/) for more information.

# Resources Available

* 1. Describe the resources available to conduct the research: For example, as appropriate:
     + Justify the feasibility of recruiting the required number of suitable subjects within the agreed recruitment period. For example, how many potential subjects do you have access to? What percentage of those potential subjects do you need to recruit?
     + Describe the time that you will devote to conducting and completing the research.
     + Describe your facilities.
     + Describe the availability of medical or psychological resources that subjects might need as a result of an anticipated consequences of the human research.
     + Describe your process to ensure that all persons assisting with the research are adequately informed about the protocol, the research procedures, and their duties and functions.

# Multi-Site Research

* 1. *Study-Wide Number of Subjects*

*If this is a multicenter study, indicate the total number of subjects to be accrued across all sites.*

* 1. Study-Wide Recruitment Methods
     + If this is a multicenter study and subjects will be recruited by methods not under the control of the local site (e.g., call centers, national advertisements) describe those methods. Local recruitment methods are described later in the protocol.
     + Describe when, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited.
     + Describe the methods that will be used to identify potential subjects.
     + Describe materials that will be used to recruit subjects. (Attach copies of these documents with the application. For advertisements, attach the final copy of printed advertisements. When advertisements are taped for broadcast, attach the final audio/video tape. You may submit the wording of the advertisement prior to taping to preclude re-taping because of inappropriate wording, provided the IRB reviews the final audio/video tape.)
     + If this is a multi-site study where you are the lead investigator, describe the processes to ensure communication among sites. See “WORKSHEET: Communication and Responsibilities (HRP-830).” All sites have the most current version of the protocol, consent document, and HIPAA authorization.
     + All required approvals (initial, continuing review and modifications) have been obtained at each site (including approval by the site’s IRB of record).
     + All modifications have been communicated to sites, and approved (including approval by the site’s IRB of record) before the modification is implemented.
     + All engaged participating sites will safeguard data, including secure transmission of data, as required by local information security policies.
     + All local site investigators conduct the study in accordance with applicable federal regulations and local laws.
     + All non-compliance with the study protocol or applicable requirements will reported in accordance with local policy.
  2. Describe the method for communicating to engaged participating sites (see “WORKSHEET: Communication and Responsibilities (HRP-830)”):
     + Problems (inclusive of reportable events).
     + Interim results.
     + The closure of a study
  3. If this is a multicenter study where you are a participating site/investigator, describe the local procedures for maintenance of confidentiality. (See “WORKSHEET: Communication and Responsibilities (HRP-830).”)
     + Where and how data or specimens will be stored locally?
     + How long the data or specimens will be stored locally?
     + Who will have access to the data or specimens locally?
     + Who is responsible for receipt or transmission of the data or specimens locally?
     + How data and specimens will be transported locally?

1. See our Clinical Trials web page at <https://www.research.fsu.edu/research-offices/ohsp/clinical-trials/> to obtain more information and instructions about clinical trials and related requirements. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)