

**Institute for Translational Health Sciences
Research Bioethics Consult Service
<http://www.iths.org/>**

We offer advice to ITHS members, research participants, families and communities, and IRBs who have questions that could benefit from in-depth conversation and analysis about ethical issues related to clinical research studies.

Consultant recommendations are advisory and are supplemental to the IRBs' responsibility for research oversight. The consultations are confidential.

Consultations may simply involve a phone conversation, while other consultations might involve a face to face meeting and written report back to you. In some cases, the consults recommendations will be for referral to a more appropriate resource such as the IRB, legal counsel, psychiatry, human resources, etc.

The consult service can meet with requestors in person or over the phone, and can provide written reports, when necessary. Consults can be requested 24/7 for urgent issues related to the care of particular research participants.

There are five consultants who share call, but when it is feasible or appropriate, consults will be done by more than one consultant, sometimes including supplemental consultants beyond the five consultants with additional expertise.

Consults can be requested by contacting the RSB core office at (206) 598-6477 or rsbcore@u.washington.edu. For urgent issues related to the care of particular research participant you can call the Children's paging operator at 206-987-2000 and ask for the Research Bioethicist on call.

Examples of bioethics questions that can be addressed include:

Study Development

Study design, recruitment, participant selection, community engagement, informed consent, or research collaborations

Study Implementation

Application of informed consent to a particular participant because of questions about decisional capacity, comprehension, or voluntariness; withdrawal from research, or obligations to provide additional health care to participants.

Study Analysis

Data sharing, results disclosure or sharing data with family members, confidentiality in publication, authorship, or collaborative relationships.

The Regulatory Support & Bioethics Core also has regulatory and compliance staff who can offer guidance on research review processes and requirements.