



## RESEARCH ETHICS CLEARANCE

The following kinds of research require review and clearance by a Research Ethics Board (REB) before the research begins:

- a. Living human participants;
- b. Human biological materials, as well as human embryos, fetuses, fetal tissue, reproductive materials and stem cells. This applies to materials derived from living and deceased individuals.
- c. Research involving secondary use of data (use of data initially collected for another purpose) - health records, employee records, student records, computer listings, banked tissue - if any form of identifier is involved and/or if private information pertaining to individuals is involved.
- d. Quality assurance studies and program evaluations which address a research question.

Research does not require REB review when it relies exclusively on information that is:

- a. Publicly available through a mechanism set out by legislation or regulation and that is protected by law; or
- b. In the public domain and the individuals to whom the information refers have no reasonable expectation of privacy.

REB review is not required for research involving the observation of people in public places where:

- a. It does not involve any intervention staged by the researcher, or direct interaction with the individuals or groups;
- b. Individuals or groups targeted for observation have no reasonable expectation of privacy; and
- c. Any dissemination of research results does not allow identification of specific individuals.

REB review is not required for research that relies exclusively on secondary use of anonymous information, or anonymous human biological materials, so long as the process of data linkage or recording or dissemination of results does not generate identifiable information.

For more detailed information please visit the Panel on Research Ethics Website at <https://ethics.gc.ca/>