

The IRB certification made me aware of many different aspects that I wasn't knowledgeable about before completing the certification. One of the things that I wasn't knowledgeable about was the different protected classes when it comes to research. I was aware that pregnant women, elders, and children were protected. Still, I was pleasantly surprised that people who were institutionalized, people with mental disabilities, and people who were socially/economically disadvantaged were also included. With this training, I learned about the different types of abuse, which include coercion, physical control, undue influence, and manipulation. The training also taught about different types of vulnerability, such as situational. Situational vulnerability includes several different subcategories such as institutional vulnerability where individuals have the cognitive capacity to consent but may not be able to do so in a voluntary sense this is because they may feel coerced to consent due to their status. I was particularly interested in economic vulnerability and social vulnerability. Economic vulnerability arises when subjects are in a position where they're at a disadvantage due to their economic status. An example of a type of abuse that occurs with an economically vulnerable individual is having a sort of payment that would make them feel inclined to accept due to economic hardships that they might be facing. With social vulnerability, individuals who belong to undervalued groups in society are at risk of exploitation due to their social status. Now when it comes to individuals who cannot give consent, there is a representative that assists with that process during a research. The Legally Authorized Representative or LAR is an individual who is authorized under applicable law to consent on behalf of the individual who will participate in the research. When conducting research with subjects, one must ensure that the research is always in the best interest of the participant and that it doesn't create any harm. Researchers must also ensure that the benefits are greater than the risks.