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| The purpose of this worksheet is to provide support for Designated Reviewers granting exemption determinations. This worksheet is to be used. It does not need to be completed or retained.[[1]](#footnote-1) | | | | |
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| 1. GENERAL EXCLUSIONS FROM EXEMPTIONS (Check if “Yes.” If any are checked, the research is not exempt.) | | | | |
|  | The research is FDA-regulated.[[2]](#endnote-1) | | | |
|  | The research involves Prisoners, conducted or funded by DHHS or Dept. of Defense (DOD) and is NOT aimed at involving a broader subject population that only incidentally includes prisoners. | | | |
|  | The research involves interactions with Prisoners.[[3]](#endnote-2) | | | |
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| 1. Criteria for approval of exempt research (Check if “Yes”) | | | | |
|  | The research involves no more than Minimal Risk to subjects. **(Must be checked.)** | | | |
|  | Selection of subjects is equitable. (That is, the research is appropriate for the population being studied.) **(Must be checked.)** | | | |
|  | There are interactions with subjects: **(If checked, all of the following must also be checked.)** | | | |
|  | | There will be a consent process | |
|  | | The consent process will disclose that the activities involve research. | |
|  | | The consent process will disclose the procedures to be performed. | |
|  | | The consent process will disclose that participation is voluntary. | |
|  | | The consent process will disclose the name and contact information for the investigator. | |
|  | | There are adequate provisions to maintain the privacy interests of subjects. | |
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| 2018 Requirements  *NOTE: For Exempt determinations on or after January 21, 2019, complete section 3. If this study is subject to Pre-2018 Common Rule requirements or is DOJ-regulated, move to sections 4 and 5 below.* | | | | |
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| 1. The research falls into one or more of the following categories (One or more categories must be checked) | | | | |
|  | 1. Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings that specifically involves normal educational practices that are not likely to adversely impact students’ opportunity to learn required educational content or the assessment of educators who provide instruction. This includes most research on regular and special education instructional strategies, and research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods. | | | |
|  | 2. Research that only includes interactions involving educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior (including visual or auditory recording) if at least one of the following criteria is met:  (i) The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the Human Subjects cannot be readily ascertained, directly or indirectly through identifiers linked to the subjects; OR  (ii) Any disclosure of Human Subjects’ responses outside the research would not reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects’ financial standing, employability, educational advancement, or reputation; OR  (iii) The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the Human Subjects can be readily ascertained, directly or indirectly through identifiers linked to the subjects, AND an IRB conducts limited IRB review. **(See HRP-319 – WORKSHEET - Limited IRB Review)** | | | |
|  | If the research involves children and is conducted, funded, or subject to regulation by DHHS, Dept. of Defense (DOD), Dept. of Education (ED), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the procedures are limited to (1) the observation of public behavior when the investigator(s) do not participate in the activities being observed or (2) the use of educational tests and at least one of the following criteria is met:  (i) The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the Human Subjects cannot readily be ascertained, directly or indirectly through identifiers linked to the subjects; OR  (ii) Any disclosure of Human Subjects’ responses outside the research would not reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects’ financial standing, employability, educational achievement, or reputation. | | |
|  | 3(i). Research involving benign behavioral interventions in conjunction with the collection of information from an adult subject through verbal or written responses (including data entry) or audiovisual recording if the subject prospectively agrees to the intervention and information collection and at least one of the following criteria is met:  (A) The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the Human Subjects cannot readily be ascertained, directly or indirectly, through identifiers linked to the subjects; OR  (B) Any disclosure of the Human Subjects’ responses outside the research would not reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects’ financial standing, employability, educational advancement, or reputation; OR  (C) The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the Human Subjects can be readily ascertained, directly or indirectly through identifiers linked to the subjects, AND an IRB conducts limited IRB review. **(See HRP-319 – WORKSHEET - Limited IRB Review)**  3(ii) For the purpose of this provision, benign behavioral interventions are brief in duration, harmless, painless, not physically invasive, not likely to have a significant adverse lasting impact on the subjects, and the investigator has no reason to think the subjects will find the interventions offensive or embarrassing. Provided all such criteria are met, examples of such benign behavioral interventions would include having the subjects play an online game, having them solve puzzles under various noise conditions, or having them decide how to allocate a nominal amount of received cash between themselves and someone else.  3(iii). If the research involves deceiving the subjects regarding the nature or purposes of the research, this exemption is not applicable unless the subject authorizes the deception through a prospective agreement to participate in research in circumstances in which the subject is informed that he or she will be unaware of or misled regarding the nature or purposes of the research. | | | |
|  | 4. Secondary research for which consent is not required: Secondary research uses of identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens, if at least one of the following criteria is met:  (i) The identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens are publicly available; OR  (ii) Information, which may include information about biospecimens, is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects cannot readily be ascertained directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects, the investigator does not contact the subjects, and the investigator will not re-identify subjects; OR  (iii) The research involves only information collection and analysis involving the investigator’s use of identifiable health information when that use is regulated under 45 CFR parts 160 and 164 (HIPAA), subparts A and E, for the purposes of “health care operations” or “research” as those terms are defined at 45 CFR 164.501 or for “public health activities and purposes” as described under 45 CFR 164.512(b); OR  (iv) The research is conducted by, or on behalf of, a Federal department or agency using government-generated or government-collected information obtained for non-research activities, if the research generates identifiable private information that is or will be maintained on information technology that is subject to and in compliance with section 208(b) of the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. 3501 note, if all of the identifiable private information collected, used, or generated as part of the activity will be maintained in systems of records subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, and, if applicable, the information used in the research was collected subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq. | | | |
|  | 5. Research and demonstration projects which are conducted or supported by a Federal department or agency, or otherwise subject to the approval of department or agency heads (or the approval of heads of bureaus or other subordinate agencies that have been delegated authority to conduct the research and demonstration projects), and that are designed to study, evaluate, improve, or otherwise examine: public benefit or service programs, including procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs, possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures, or possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs[[4]](#endnote-3)  (i) Each Federal department or agency conducting or supporting the research and demonstration projects must establish, on a publicly accessible Federal website or in such other manner as the department or agency head may determine, a list of the research and demonstration projects that the Federal department or agency conducts or supports under this provision. The research or demonstration project must be published on this list prior to commencing the research involving human subjects. | | | |
|  | 6. Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies, (i) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed or (ii) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the Dept. of Agriculture. | | | |
|  | PSU Exempt 9[[5]](#endnote-4) Non-federally funded research, where the research procedures do not conform to one of the eight exempt categories outlined in 45 CFR 46.104 (d), which are outlined above, and are limited to: (1) the use of non-physically invasive procedures and (2) are social, educational, or behavioral in nature. In addition, the following are exclusions: (Check if **“Yes.”** If any are checked, research does not qualify for exemption under this category.) | | | |
|  | Federal funding or federal training grants. | | |
|  | Projects where study personnel (including students) are paid/supported from a federal training grant or otherwise paid/supported directly from a Faculty Advisor’s federal funds. | | |
|  | The use of deception. | | |
|  | Collection of biological specimens (e.g., saliva, blood, urine). | | |
|  | Studies for which an NIH issued Certificate of Confidentiality to protect identifiable research data is issued, sought, or obtained. | | |
|  | Sponsor or other contractual obligation or restrictions. | | |
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| Pre-2018 Requirements:  *NOTE: If this study is subject to 2018 Common Rule requirements, complete section 3 above.* | | | |
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| 1. One of the following is true: (If one of these boxes is checked, complete Section 5.) | | | |
|  | The research is DOJ-regulated.  The review is related to research determined to be exempt prior to January 21, 2019, and the organization continues to apply Pre-2018 requirements to some or all research initiated prior to January 21, 2019. | | |
| 1. The research falls into one or more of the following categories (one or more categories must be checked) | | | |
|  |  | 1. Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices, such as: (i) research on regular and special education instructional strategies, or (ii) research on the effectiveness of or the comparison amonginstructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods. (Both the procedures involve normal education practices and the objectives of the research involve normal educational practices.) | |
|  | 2. Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless: (i) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that Human Subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (ii) any disclosure of the Human Subjects’ responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects’ financial standing, employability, or reputation. In addition: | |
|  |  | If the research involves children and is conducted, funded, or subject to regulation by DHHS, Dept. of Defense (DOD), Dept. of Education (ED), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the procedures are limited to (1) the observation of public behavior when the investigator(s) do not participate in the activities being observed and (2) the use of educational tests. (“N/A” if the research does not involve children or is not conducted, funded, or otherwise subject to by these agencies.) |
|  | 3. Research involving the use of educational tests[[6]](#endnote-5), survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior that is not exempt under paragraph (b)(2) of this section, if: (i) the Human Subjects are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office; or (ii) Federal statute(s) require(s) without exception that the confidentiality of the personally identifiable information will be maintained throughout the research and thereafter. | |
|  | 4.[[7]](#endnote-6) Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens if the information is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that subjects cannot be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects. (For research conducted, funded, or otherwise subject to regulation by any federal agency “existing” means “existing at the time the research is proposed.” Otherwise, it means “existing at the time the research is proposed or will exist in the future for non-research purposes.”) | |
|  | 5. Research and demonstration projects which are conducted by or subject to the approval of Dept. or Agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine: (i) Public benefit or service programs; (ii) procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs; (iii) possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures; or (iv) possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs. In addition: (Check if “Yes.” All must be checked) | |
|  |  | The program under study delivers a public benefit[[8]](#endnote-7) or service[[9]](#endnote-8). |
|  | The research or demonstration project is conducted pursuant to specific federal statutory authority. |
|  | There is no statutory requirement that the project be reviewed by an IRB. |
|  | The project does not involve significant physical invasions or intrusions upon the privacy of subjects. |
|  | The funding agency concurs with the exemption. |
|  | 6. Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies, (i) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed or (ii) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the Dept. of Agriculture. | |
|  |  | PSU Exempt 9[[10]](#endnote-9) Non-federally funded research, where the research procedures do not conform to one of the eight exempt categories outlined in 45 CFR 46.104 (d), which are outlined above, and are limited to: (1) the use of non-physically invasive procedures and (2) are social, educational, or behavioral in nature. In addition, the following are exclusions: (Check if **“Yes.”** If any are checked, research does not qualify for exemption under this category.) | |
|  |  | Federal funding or federal training grants. |
|  | Projects where study personnel (including students) are paid/supported from a federal training grant or otherwise paid/supported directly from a Faculty Advisor’s federal funds. |
|  | The use of deception. |
|  | Collection of biological specimens (e.g., saliva, blood, urine). |
|  | Studies for which an NIH issued Certificate of Confidentiality to protect identifiable research data is issued, sought, or obtained. |
|  | Sponsor or other contractual obligation or restrictions. |
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1. This document satisfies AAHRPP elements I-9, II.2.A, II.2.B, II.2.C, II.3.F, II.4.A, II.5.A [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The organization’s policy is to not grant exemptions to FDA-regulated research in category (6). [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
3. AAHRPP Tip Sheet 18: Review of Research involving Prisoners and the Role of the Prisoner Representative. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
4. iii Such projects include, but are not limited to, internal studies by Federal employees, and studies under contracts or consulting arrangements, cooperative agreements, or grants. Exempt projects also include waivers of otherwise mandatory requirements using authorities such as sections 1115 and 1115A of the Social Security Act, as amended. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
5. To exercise existing flexibility in the application of federal regulations to non-federally funded studies, the IRBs may choose to review certain studies at the PSU Exemption Category #9. Examples of applicable procedures may include but are not limited to:

   Reading and Writing tasks

   Video, Computer, or Behavioral Games/Tasks

   Maintaining journals, diaries or blogs

   Think-aloud activities

   Use of devices that sense user movement in the course of normal daily activity (e.g., pedometers, accelerometers, or other fitness or motion trackers)

   Studies using eye tracking technology

   Ethnographic Observations of Behavior

   Tasks that use experimental manipulations (e.g., exposure to different written or video scenarios that are designed to change behavior).

   Obtaining height and/or weight measurements [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
6. Includes cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, and achievement tests [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
7. “If these sources are publicly available” was removed because public data cannot be private, and if there is no collection of private identifiable data, there can be no Human Subjects. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
8. For example, financial or medical benefits as provided under the Social Security Act [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
9. For example, social, supportive, or nutrition services as provided under the Older Americans Act [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
10. To exercise existing flexibility in the application of federal regulations to non-federally funded studies, the IRBs may choose to review certain studies at the PSU Exemption Category #9. Examples of applicable procedures may include but are not limited to:

    Reading and Writing tasks

    Video, Computer, or Behavioral Games/Tasks

    Maintaining journals, diaries or blogs

    Think-aloud activities

    Use of devices that sense user movement in the course of normal daily activity (e.g., pedometers, accelerometers, or other fitness or motion trackers)

    Studies using eye tracking technology

    Ethnographic Observations of Behavior

    Tasks that use experimental manipulations (e.g., exposure to different written or video scenarios that are designed to change behavior).

    Obtaining height and/or weight measurements [↑](#endnote-ref-9)