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# Challenges of Being an IO: Human Subject Protections

Harrisburg University of Science and Technology - Institutional/Signatory
Official: Human Subject Research

## **Quiz Results**

You correctly answered 3 of 5 quiz questions.

## Question 1

**Question** Communication is most effective when

Your Answer All messages and responses regarding research are documented

in writing

Result Incorrect

**Correct Answer** Messages are sent in a timely fashion to the appropriate people

**Comment** Effective communication ensures that messages are sent in a

timely fashion to the appropriate people. Establishing effective lines of communication should ensure that every employee feels

that they are/can be heard, but that is only partly a measure of effectiveness. Written documentation may be required in certain circumstances, but not for all messages.

## Question 2

**Question** Two techniques that allow the IO to play a useful advisory role

even without direct experience in human subject protection areas

are:

**Your Answer** Periodically reviewing institutional policy and reviewing federal

regulatory agency determination/Warning Letters

Result Correct

**Comment** Many IOs find that is helpful to review federal guidance, OHRP

determination letters, FDA Warning Letters, and periodically review institutional policy. Guidance documents are intended to clarify federal policy and provide examples of acceptable methods for compliance; because guidance is "non-binding" and written for a nationwide audience, changes in institutional policy may not be needed. Email and memos are written communication

techniques. While the IO should delegate duties to qualified and skilled professionals, to be effective, the IO should probe and ask appropriate questions to ensure an adequate evaluation and

identify opportunities for improvement.

Question 3

**Question** Using a "chain of command" reporting structure allows for

messages to be sent to the leadership of the organization:

**Your Answer** And ensures that leadership is responsive

Result Incorrect

Correct Answer And allows for appropriate filtering and resolution at intermediate

levels

**Comment** A "chain of command" reporting structure allows for appropriate

filtering and response/resolution at intermediate levels (for

example, the immediate supervisor, department head,

dean/manager, etc.), which also permits quick response/feedback

to the originator. Leadership response times are set by institutional culture and expectations as well as individual commitment, not by the reporting structure. While chain-of-command works well in hierarchical structures such as the

military, any organization can effectively implement this reporting

structure.

## Question 4

**Question** Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are important to

institutional compliance; therefore, the IO is typically involved

with:

**Your Answer** Setting the policy and approving the final SOP

Result Correct

**Comment** Both the Common Rule and the FDA regulations require written

procedures for certain human subject protection operations.

Because human subject protection SOPs are important for maintaining consistency and compliance, the IO should be involved in policy development, typically by determining policy

needs and reviewing the draft SOP and/or approving the final

SOP. Monitoring of compliance, especially on a day-to-day basis, is a role for the QI program. Even if the IO has a legal background,

legal interpretations of policy are in the domain of the legal office.

Policies are not appealed; however, there should be a process for updating and revising policies when needed.

## Question 5

**Question** Which executive management skill plays the primary role in

conflict resolution/management?

Your Answer Communication

**Result** Correct

**Comment** Communication plays the key role in conflict

resolution/management. Of the other three IO tasks/roles, leadership may be needed to foster communication. Program evaluation and resource allocation may help prevent conflicts from occurring, but are not typically useful in conflict resolution.

You scored 60% on the quiz.

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