



Naming Your Tribal IRB (Institutional Review Board)

1. Is Institutional Review Board (IRB), the name for academic and/or medical institutions and a Research Review Board (RRB), the name for a Tribe or community?

“No, “IRB” is a generic term used by FDA (and HHS) to refer to a group whose function is to review research to assure the protection of the rights and welfare of the human subjects. Each institution may use whatever name it chooses...” (U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Institutional Review Boards Frequently Asked Questions – Information Sheet. Guidance for Institutional Review Boards and Clinical Investigators.)

2. Can Tribal Nations reviewing research have a name that does not use the words “Review” or “Board”?

Yes. The board can be assigned any name. The words “Review” and “Board” are not required (personal communication, Dr. Harold Blatt, Assurances/IRB Registrations, Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), June 2, 2014).

3. When we register our board with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), are we changing the name to IRB?

No. In the OHRP [database](#), the board is listed as an ‘IRB’ and assigned an ‘IRB number’, irrespective of the board’s actual name (personal communication, Dr. Harold Blatt, Assurances/IRB Registrations, Office for Human Research Protection (OHRP), June 2, 2014).



4. We have a board and it is not registered with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) – can we call it an IRB?

Yes. Boards that are not registered with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) can have the name IRB.

Sources

Blatt, Harold. Assurances/IRB Registrations, Office for Human Research Protections (June 2, 2014) Telephone communication.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Institutional Review Boards Frequently Asked Questions – Information Sheet. Guidance for Institutional Review Boards and Clinical Investigators. Accessed July 23, 2014 at <http://www.fda.gov/regulatoryinformation/guidances/ucm126420.htm>