

Research Ethics & Compliance Office (RECO) 2021 - 2022 Priorities Plan



We oversee the ethical conduct and decision-making in clinical and health research projects that use human participants, materials and information. Together with the REBs, Operational Review, and Research Compliance, we aim to build capacity in ethics, integrity, and compliance through educating, advising, research, policy/guidance development, and administration. Since March 1, 2020, our office and REBs have reviewed almost 1600 research study events and activities¹.



APPROACH: Our work is grounded in a commitment that *'Research is Care'*, which speaks to Island Health values, articulated within ethically driven research that centers participants who come from communities served by our institution.

ALIGNMENT: Island Health's Five Year Strategic Framework

Goal 1: Improve the Experience, Quality and Outcomes of Health and Care Services for Patients, Clients and Families

Objective 1.4: Care will be driven by best practice, evidence and data to achieve the highest level of quality and safety

Goal 3: Increase Health System Value and Ensure the Sustainability of Health and Care Services

Objective 3.2: Island Health will drive innovation and research to improve outcomes for people, care teams and communities

ASSIGNMENT: To identify and enact the below priorities in alignment with the goals and objectives of the above framework, our work will focus on:

COMMUNICATIONS

Share regular research study reports by developing a dedicated delivery schedule.

Ensure information on the RECO website is a clear and compliant with current requirements and regulations.

Enhance external communication offerings through newsletter items distributed through known channels (e.g. The Weekly).

Standardize language for all communications with the REB and office services by creating templates, forms and review related documents.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Increase accessibility to current policies and procedures.

Develop process structure for creating new guidance from REBs.

Improve participant complaint process including the completion of the CAPAs resulting from reviews.

Ensure procedures (e.g. SOPs) review effective and efficient.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Deliver comprehensive training for REB and research administrative staff at regular intervals throughout the year.

Develop and book online database systems training for researchers and teams including research staff.

Create REB member manual for onboarding and streamline the processes for this using a DEI lens.

Improve access to research ethics knowledge and expertise across Island Health.

Provide and enable opportunities for the REB and RECO staff to access, attend and provide training in order to bring comprehensive expertise to our areas of specialty within the institution: research ethics, quality assurance and operational review.

¹ Study events and activities refers to new initial research study applications and post-approval activities including amendments, acknowledgments, renewals, closures for both Island Health only research AND multijurisdictional or harmonized provincial research studies submitted up until August 31, 2021.