

Research Ethics & Compliance Office

2022-2023 Priorities Plan



The Research Ethics & Compliance Office oversees 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 and guidance development, and administration. Since March 1, 2020, our office and REBs have reviewed almost 2592 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 centres participants who come from diverse communities which we serve using the principles of Respect for Persons, Concern for Welfare, and Justice.²

ALIGNMENT: Island Health's Five Year Strategic Framework



Our priorities are also informed by the planning and strategic direction provided within the Island Health Research department

ASSIGNMENT: To identify and enact the below priorities our work will focus on:

COMMUNICATIONS

Identify and develop a communication plan to convey RECO work.

Anticipate and complete maintenance of RECO website to ensure information is clear and compliant with current requirements and regulations.

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

Create standardized language for REB review documents.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Provide online training throughout the organization via available systems.

Deliver training and education on REB and RECO SOPs for the Island Health research community.

Create CREB member manual for onboarding and streamline the process for this using a DEI lens.

Enable opportunities for the REB and RECO staff to access, attend, and provide training in order to bring comprehensive expertise across the organization.

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

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Complete and publish REB SOPs.

Develop process structure for creating new guidance from REBs.

Create and publish workflows for REB reviews and processes

REPORTING

Identify and, where applicable, adapt additional automation in reports.

Build additional reporting requirements into current models.

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 March 21, 2022.

² Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2018) https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2018.html