

Questions Related to Restrictions on Publication of Results

The conduct of research must be undertaken by researchers with the relevant expertise and contribute to public knowledge and understanding – merit and integrity. Researchers are encouraged to collaborate with their peers as well as other institutions or organisations that may have an interest in the topic area.

Introduction

Where those interests result in a duality of interests or a potential or perceived conflict of interests, researchers must inform the HREC and participants. Researchers must also advise of any restrictions on the publication of data as a result of research collaborations or funding arrangements.

The HREC is particularly interested in any restrictions, particularly commercial or the like, that may have an impact on the publication of results. These matters are normally addressed in the Research Agreement or Contract.

During negotiations of the contract or agreement for a funded project, the University normally requires researchers to be able to present the academic reporting of results without substantial alteration by the sponsor.

The research agreement will also stipulate other considerations such as whether the funding body or other parties have a right to review the results prior to publication. Such review may impact on the timeliness of presenting the results to the broader community.

In some cases, funding bodies may request branding of the results where they are labelled as sponsors to the research. They may also request reporting of progress, any adverse or unforeseen events and the implications any of these may have relative to the research goals.

Researchers need to demonstrate to the HREC that they have a plan to manage these restrictions with regard to their research plan and publication plan.

The Human Research Ethics Application (HREA)

The HREA addresses this in Q1.8 Restrictions. In this section researchers declare any commercial and intellectual property arrangements. Individuals or organisations that may have an interest in the outcome of the research must also be identified.

The response to Q1.8 need to correspond with the responses in HREA Q3.18 on information collected, Q3.14 about disposal of information and Q3.11 reporting Individual results to participants.

Participants must be made aware of, and consent to, any arrangements in place. The information should be provided in the Participant Information Sheet, Consent Form and other relevant documentation.

Human Research Ethics Guidance Documents available from Research Services

- Guidance for Researchers New to Human Ethics Review
- Guidance Human Research Ethics Protocols for Coursework Masters
- Guidance on Choosing the most appropriate PIS and Consent
- Guidance on Completing the Project Description
- Guidance on Creating Research Project Flyers
- Guidance on Data Storage and Retention Questions
- Guidance on Ethics Review Exemption
- Guidance on Issues with Informed Consent in Research
- Guidance on Levels of Risk and the Ethical Review Process
- Guidance on Making an Amendment to an Approved Project
- Guidance on Organisations in Research
- Guidance on Questions Related to Cultural Sensitivities
- Guidance on Questions Related to Restrictions on Publication of Results
- Guidance on Receiving and Responding to Ethics Committee Assessor Comments
- Guidance on Research Projects Seeking to use Western Sydney Staff as Participants
- Guidance on Reimbursements
- Guidance on The use of 'Opt Out' or Passive Consent in Human Research
- Guidance on Writing Participant Information Sheets and Consent Forms
- Guidance on Research Involving Young People
- Guidance on Research Projects and DFAT Advice
- Guidance on Using Focus Groups in Research

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