

Department: UAMS Institutional Review Board
Policy Number: 4.1
Section: Committee Operations
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November 18, 2002, October 11, 2019

SUBJECT: IRB Committees and Subcommittees

Policy:

The number and composition of IRB Committees at UAMS may vary as needed to support timely and thorough reviews of human subject research submissions. Individual committees' membership will comprise biomedical, social-behavioral, and non-scientific expertise as appropriate to the research being reviewed and in accordance with federal regulations.

Procedure:

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

All regular IRB committees will be constituted according to these policies and will be qualified to review biomedical and social-behavioral human subject research studies and related reports. Committees with a different specific focus may be added if warranted to meet the needs of the research program.

Biomedical research involves studies of drugs, supplements, medicines, surgical and other clinical procedures and diagnostics, medical devices, treatment regimens, and clinically applied interventions affecting the progression, symptom management, diagnosis or prevention of disease. Methods include the administration of these techniques, substances, and procedures to measure endpoints and outcome effectiveness.

Social-behavioral research involves the examination of interpersonal interaction, observation, group or individual behavior relating to interventions or experiences. Methods include but are not limited to open-ended questions or interview; surveys inquiring about individual or group knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, experiences or behavioral activities; or the performance of benign activities under different environmental circumstances.

IRB Subcommittees may be formed at the request of the vice chancellor for research, the IRB chair, and/or the IRB director. Subcommittees will review only specific, defined research-related issues. Membership will be determined based on individual reviewers' expertise and availability. Subcommittees are not duly constituted IRBs and will not make determinations related to their work. They may prepare information to be presented to a convened IRB that would make any determinations.