ECOS Series

HOW TO
ACE YOUR IRB SUBMISSIONS

Understanding IRB Requirements

NHG Health

#01 – Aug 2025

EVERY ANSWER MATTERS!

Tip: Provide study-specific justifications to support your "Waiver of documentation of Informed Consent" request.

Clearly Explain What Study Procedures Are Involved

Section O: Consent Process- Waiver of Documentation of Informed Consent (Verbal or Implied Consent)

*O1. (b) (i) The research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to research participants.

The study involves an anonymous online survey which doesn't collect any personally identifiable information. Participants will not be exposed to physical, social or legal risks. Questions focus on professional knowledge, attitude and practices related to wound dressing which are unlikely to cause distress or discomfort. Data from anonymised survey are stored on a password-protected database, only aggregated data will be reported ensuring individual responses remain confidential and secure online survey platforms with robust privacy policies will be used to collect data, further minimizing any risk of data breach.

Assure how research involves minimal participant risk: (e.g.)

- ✓ Survey collects no personally identifiable information
- ✓ Data stored in password-protected database
- ✓ Data collection uses secure online platforms with privacy safeguards

*O1. (b) (ii) The research involves no procedures for which written consent is normally required.

The research presents no procedures for which written consent is normally required outside of the research context. Participants are simply responding to survey questions about their professional experience and opinions which are routinely shared in professional settings. Participants voluntarily choose to complete the survey, providing implied consent through their participation.

Assure how research activities are similar to everyday tasks that don't require written consent

IRB Will Reject Unanswered or Insufficiently Justified Responses

*O1. (b) (i) The research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to research participants.

Correct

*O1. (b) (ii) The research involves no procedures for which written consent is normally required.

Correct, no conflict of interest, no breach of PDPA

Disclaimer: Examples adapted from submissions received by DSRB, altered to ensure confidentiality

For more effective responses to IRB, refer to "Mastering IRB Submissions – Key Points to note for Effective Response" Guide @ https://ecossupport.gri.nhg.com.sg/userguides/

ECOS Launch Support for NHG User Guides

https://for.sg/guides

Is this helpful? Email us: research_education@nhg.com.sg