Research Ethics Bulletin #2: TCPS 2 (2014)

What is the TCPS 2?

The *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (TCPS 2) is the joint research ethics policy statement of the federal research agencies (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC). The TCPS 2 promotes the ethical conduct of research involving humans. It outlines standards and procedures for research involving humans and applies to those conducting, participating in, or reviewing human research in institutions funded by CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC. A variety of organizations across Canada (including the HREA in Newfoundland and Labrador) have adopted the TCPS 2.

The Policy applies to all institutions eligible to receive or administer funding from one or more of the Agencies, and members of those institutions – faculty, staff and students. The requirement to follow the TCPS 2 as a condition of funding is contained in the MOU signed by the agencies and these institutions.

The TCPS 2 was revised last year and released in December, 2014. TCPS 2 (2014) has replaced TCPS 2 (2010) as the official human research ethics policy of the Agencies.

Future Revisions

At present, Panel sub-committees are exploring the need for guidance pertaining to population and public health records, clinical trials and material incidental findings. In the meantime, Secretariat staff are available to answer questions about the application of current guidance, and responses to frequently posed questions are posted on the interpretations page on the Panel website: http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/interpretations/Default/

What is the TCPS 2 Tutorial – Course on Research Ethics (CORE)?

CORE is an introduction to the TCPS 2 available online, as a self-administered tutorial for those interested in a more thorough understanding of the Policy and how it is applied. CORE provides an applied approach to the guidance provided in TCPS 2. This self-paced course features interactive exercises and consists of 8 modules ranging from Core Principles to REB Review. It is designed primarily for the use of researchers and REB members – though anyone may take this course and print their own certificate of completion.

To note: the HREB has made the CORE tutorial a prerequisite to REB review.

CORE Update:

The TCPS2 online tutorial is being revised to correspond with the updated Policy. CORE will be launched as soon as possible this year. It will feature more interactive elements, accessibility for people with vision and hearing impairments, and a new module on Chapter 9: Research Involving First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples of Canada.

For further information on the TCPS 2 (2014) and the activities of the Panel and Secretariat, please consult the Panel's website: http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/ or contact the Secretariat below:

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Health Research Ethics Authority

Canadian Bioethics Society   Société canadienne de bioéthique