



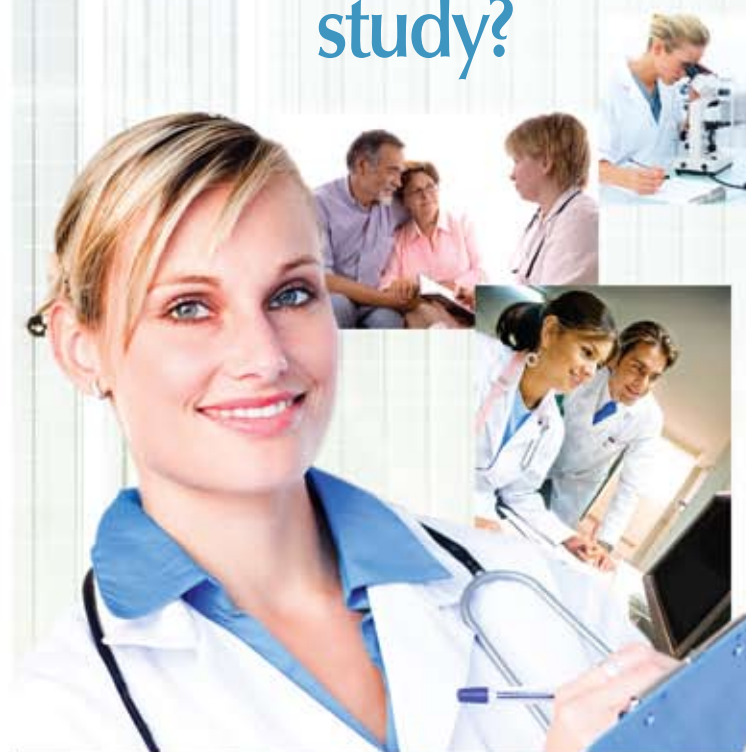
***Regional Health  
Institutional Review Board  
Mission Statement:***

*The Mission of the Regional Health Institutional Review Board is to protect the rights and welfare of humans who are the subjects of research.*

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Are you  
thinking of  
participating  
in a research  
study?



REGIONAL HEALTH  
*Institutional Review Board*

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### *What is a research study?*

A research study, also known as a clinical trial or research experiment, is a way for scientists and researchers to collect and study information about a specific topic or concept. Research can be sponsored federally or privately.

### *Who is involved in research studies?*

All research studies are led by a Principal Investigator (PI). A PI is a medical professional who is overseeing the treatment and safety of subjects in the research study.

The PI may also have a research team. These members can include research assistants, nurses, data coordinators, statisticians, and other skill individuals. Research team members are essential to the day-to-day operations of the study.

### *What kind of procedures are involved in research studies?*

Research studies can involve a wide variety of procedures. These may include answering questions, taking experimental medicines or using experimental equipment. A research study can take a few minutes or several years. All procedures, processes, as well as the duration of the study, will be discussed in detail with you.

### *Who can be a subject in a research study?*

Most research studies have specific requirements or criteria you must meet before being able to participate in the study. The criteria are not used to reject people, but are used to identify the right person for the study and help keep them safe. The criteria also help researchers ensure they will be able to answer the questions they intend to study.

### *Who reviews a study?*

An Institutional Review Board (IRB) is responsible for with protecting the rights and welfare of people involved in research. The IRB reviews plans for research studies involving human subjects.

### *What is the Institutional Review Board (IRB)?*

The IRB is a committee of scientific, non-scientific and community members who volunteer to review and approve studies. These studies may involve personal or telephone interviews, medical record reviews, mailed questionnaires, randomized trials of experimental drugs, devices and procedures, or analysis of computer-stored clinical and administrative data.

### *What are the risks to being in a research study?*

Research studies may involve some degree of risk. Some studies will have a minor risk; for example, filling out a survey with personal questions that may make you feel uncomfortable. Other studies may have higher risks; for example, taking experimental drugs with possible side effects. The research team will explain in detail the possible risks to you before you decide to participate in the study.

### *What are the benefits to being in a research study?*

Not every participant will personally benefit from the research study. In some studies, you may directly benefit from the experimental drug or procedure. However, research studies provide valuable information, which helps researchers gather information about diseases or conditions. That information can benefit health care as a whole.

### *Where can I find out more about being in a research study?*

If you are interested in medical research about a specific disease or condition, you should speak with your physician or therapist about research studies for which you may qualify.