

## How do I know if my project requires human ethics review?

### Guidance

As described in [Article 2.1](#) of the [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 \(2022\)](#)

The following requires ethics review and approval by an REB before the research commences. Research involving:

- a. living human participants;
- b. human biological materials, as well as human embryos, fetuses, fetal tissue, reproductive materials, and stem cells. This applies to materials derived from living and deceased individuals.

Where "**research**" is defined as an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry and/or systematic investigation. The term "disciplined inquiry" refers to an inquiry that is conducted with the expectation that the method, results, and conclusions will be able to withstand the scrutiny of the relevant research community.

A determination that research is the intended purpose of the undertaking is key for differentiating activities that require ethics review by an REB and those that do not ([Article 2.5](#)). It is important to note that choice of methodology and/or intent or ability to publish findings are not factors that determine whether an activity is research requiring ethics review.

**When in doubt about the applicability of this Policy** to a particular research project, the researcher shall seek the opinion of the REB. The REB makes the final decision on exemption from research ethics review.