# INSTRUCTIONS:

* Depending on the nature of what you are doing, some sections may not be applicable to your research. If so mark as “Does Not Apply”. Please do not leave any sections blank.
* When you write a protocol, keep an electronic copy. You will need to modify this copy if changes to the protocol are required.
1. Protocol Title

Include the full protocol title as listed on the application form.

1. IRB Review History

If you have submitted this protocol for review by an external IRB, provide the previous study identification number and provide details of the review including the IRB name, date of review, and IRB contact information.

1. Objectives

Describe the purpose, specific aims, or objectives.

State the hypotheses to be tested.

1. Background

Describe the relevant prior experience and gaps in current knowledge.

Describe any relevant preliminary data.

Provide the scientific or scholarly background for, rationale for, and significance of the research based on the existing literature and how the research will add to existing knowledge.

1. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Describe how individuals will be screened for eligibility.

Describe the criteria that define who will be included or excluded in your final study sample.

Indicate specifically whether you will include or exclude each of the following special populations: (You may not include members of these populations as subjects in your research unless you indicate this in your inclusion criteria.)

[ ]  Adults unable to consent

[ ]  Individuals who are not yet adults (infants, children, teenagers)

[ ]  Pregnant women

[ ]  Prisoners

[ ]  Not Applicable

1. Study-Wide Number of Subjects

If this is a multicenter study, indicate the total number of subjects to be accrued across all sites.

1. Study-Wide Recruitment Methods

If this is a multicenter study and subjects will be recruited by methods not under the control of the local site (e.g., call centers, national advertisements) describe those methods.

Describe when, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited.

Describe the methods that will be used to identify potential subjects.

Describe materials that will be used to recruit subjects. (Attach copies of these documents with the application. For advertisements, attach the final copy of printed advertisements. When advertisements are taped for broadcast, attach the final audio/video tape. You may submit the wording of the advertisement prior to taping to preclude re-taping because of inappropriate wording, provided the IRB reviews the final audio/video tape.)

1. Study Timelines

Describe:

* The duration of an individual subject’s participation in the study.
* The duration anticipated to enroll all study subjects.
* The estimated date for the investigators to complete this study (complete primary analyses)
* If using medical or electronic records indicate the time span of the data to be collected; (DATE OF RECORDS FROM\_\_\_\_\_; DATE OF RECORDS ENDING\_\_\_\_\_.)
1. Study Endpoints

Describe the primary and secondary study endpoints, or goals the investigator intends to achieve, prove or disprove. Primary endpoints measure outcomes that will answer the primary, or most important, questions being asked by the research protocol.

Describe any primary or secondary safety endpoints.

1. Procedures or Methods Involved

Describe and explain the study design.

Provide a description of all research procedures being performed and when they are performed, including procedures being performed to monitor subjects for safety or minimize risks.

Describe:

* Procedures performed to lessen the probability or magnitude of risks.
* All drugs and devices used in the research and the purpose of their use, and their regulatory approval status.
* What data will be collected including long-term follow-up.
* Indicate below the source records that will be used to collect data about subjects. (Attach all surveys, scripts, and data collection forms.)

[ ] Medical Record/Chart Review [ ] Films/X-rays

[ ] Computer/Database [ ] Hospital administrative/billing records

[ ] Quality Improvement Records

Other types of records please specify:

Is data ONLY from the clinical department of the PI and sub-I’s?[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If “No” to above question, meaning data is from multiple clinical departments that are NOT the PI or approved sub-I’s, then attach letters of support from all Clinical Department Chairs that will have data included.

For HUD uses provide a description of the device, a summary of how you propose to use the device, including a description of any screening procedures, the HUD procedure, and any patient follow-up visits, tests or procedures.

1. Data and Specimen Banking

If data or specimens will be banked for future use, describe where the specimens will be stored, how long they will be stored, how the specimens will be accessed, and who will have access to the specimens.

List the data to be stored or associated with each specimen.

Describe the procedures to release data or specimens, including: the process to request a release, approvals required for release, who can obtain data or specimens, and the data to be provided with specimens.

1. Data Management

Describe the data analysis plan, including any statistical procedures.

Provide a power analysis.

Describe the steps that will be taken to secure the data (e.g., training, authorization of access, password protection, encryption, physical controls, certificates of confidentiality, and separation of identifiers and data) during storage, use, and transmission.

Describe any procedures that will be used for quality control of collected data.

Describe how data and specimens will be handled study-wide:

* What information will be included in that data or associated with the specimens?
* Where and how data or specimens will be stored?
* How long the data or specimens will be stored?
* Who will have access to the data or specimens?
* Who is responsible for receipt or transmission of the data or specimens?
* Will data be sent outside of the Drexel University system? IF YES
	+ Where will the data be sent?
	+ Why is it necessary to send the data outside of the Drexel University system?
	+ How and in what format will the data be sent? (PHI must be encrypted).
* How data and specimens will be transported?
1. Provisions to Monitor the Data to Ensure the Safety of Subjects

This is required when research involves more than Minimal Risk to subjects, otherwise indicate as Not Applicable N/A.

The plan might include establishing a data monitoring committee and a plan for reporting data monitoring committee findings to the IRB and the sponsor.

Describe:

* The plan to periodically evaluate the data collected regarding both harms and benefits to determine whether subjects remain safe.
* What data are reviewed, including safety data, untoward events, and efficacy data.
* How the safety information will be collected (e.g., with case report forms, at study visits, by telephone calls with participants).
* The frequency of data collection, including when safety data collection starts.
* Who will review the data.
* The frequency or periodicity of review of cumulative data.
* The statistical tests for analyzing the safety data to determine whether harm is occurring.
* Any conditions that trigger an immediate suspension of the research.
1. Withdrawal of Subjects

Describe anticipated circumstances under which subjects will be withdrawn from the research without their consent.

Describe any procedures for orderly termination.

Describe procedures that will be followed when subjects withdraw from the research, including partial withdrawal from procedures with continued data collection.

1. Risks to Subjects

List the reasonably foreseeable risks, discomforts, hazards, or inconveniences to the subjects related to the subjects’ participation in the research. Include as may be useful for the IRB’s consideration, describe the probability, magnitude, duration, and reversibility of the risks. Consider physical, psychological, social, legal, and economic risks.

If applicable, indicate which procedures may have risks to the subjects that are currently unforeseeable.

If applicable, indicate which procedures may have risks to an embryo or fetus should the subject be or become pregnant.

If applicable, describe risks to others who are not subjects.

1. Potential Benefits to Subjects

Describe the potential benefits that individual subjects may experience from taking part in the research. Include as may be useful for the IRB’s consideration, the probability, magnitude, and duration of the potential benefits.

Indicate if there is no direct benefit. Do not include benefits to society or others.

1. Vulnerable Populations

If the research involves individuals who are vulnerable to coercion or undue influence, describe additional safeguards included to protect their rights and welfare.

* If the research involves pregnant women, review “CHECKLIST: Research Involving Pregnant Women (HRP-412)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information.
* If the research involves neonates of uncertain viability or non-viable neonates, review “CHECKLIST: Research Involving Neonates (HRP-413)” or “HRP-414 – CHECKLIST: Research Involving Neonates of Uncertain Viability (HRP-414)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information.
* If the research involves prisoners, review “CHECKLIST: Research Involving Prisoners (HRP-415)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information.
* If the research involves persons who have not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved in the research (“children”), review the “CHECKLIST: Research Involving Children (HRP-416)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information.
* If the research involves cognitively impaired adults, review “CHECKLIST: Research Involving Cognitively Impaired Adults (HRP-417)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information.
1. Multi-Site Research

If this is a multi-site study where you are the lead investigator, such as when each sub-site has its own PI and IRB approval on behalf of this protocol, describe the processes to ensure communication among sites, such as:

* All sites have the most current version of the protocol, consent document, and HIPAA authorization.
* All required approvals have been obtained at each site (including approval by the site’s IRB of record).
* All modifications have been communicated to sites, and approved (including approval by the site’s IRB of record) before the modification is implemented.
* All engaged participating sites will safeguard data as required by local information security policies.
* All local site investigators conduct the study appropriately.
* All non-compliance with the study protocol or applicable requirements will be reported in accordance with local policy.

Describe the method for communicating to engaged participating sites:

* Problems.
* Interim results.
* The closure of a study
1. Community-Based Participatory Research

Describe involvement of the community in the design and conduct of the research.

Note: “Community-based Participatory Research” is a collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. Community-based Participatory Research begins with a research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities.

1. Sharing of Results with Subjects

Describe whether results (study results or individual subject results, such as results of investigational diagnostic tests, genetic tests, or incidental findings) will be shared with subjects or others (e.g., the subject’s primary care physicians) and if so, describe how it will be shared.

1. Setting

Describe the sites or locations where your research team will conduct the research.

* Identify where your research team will identify and recruit potential subjects.
* Identify where research procedures will be performed.
* Describe the composition and involvement of any community advisory board.
* For research conducted outside of the organization and its affiliates describe:
	+ Site-specific regulations or customs affecting the research for research outside the organization.
	+ Local scientific and ethical review structure outside the organization.
1. Resources Available

Describe the resources available to conduct the research: For example, as appropriate:

* Justify the feasibility of recruiting the required number of suitable subjects within the agreed recruitment period. For example, how many potential subjects do you have access to? What percentage of those potential subjects do you need to recruit?
* Describe the time that you will devote to conducting and completing the research.
* Describe the number and qualifications of your staff by describing their experience in conducting research, their knowledge of the local study sites, culture, and society.
* Describe your facilities.
* Describe the availability of medical or psychological resources that subjects might need as a result of an anticipated consequences of the human research.
* Describe your process to ensure that all persons assisting with the research are adequately informed about the protocol, the research procedures, and their duties and functions.
1. Prior Approvals

Describe any approvals that will be obtained prior to commencing the research. (E.g., school, external site, funding agency, laboratory, radiation safety, or biosafety approval.)

1. Recruitment Methods

Describe when, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited.

Describe the source of subjects.

Describe the methods that will be used to identify potential subjects.

Describe materials that will be used to recruit subjects. (Attach copies of these documents with the application. For advertisements, attach the final copy of printed advertisements. When advertisements are taped for broadcast, attach the final audio/video tape. You may submit the wording of the advertisement prior to taping to preclude re-taping because of inappropriate wording, provided the IRB reviews the final audio/video tape.)

Describe the amount and timing of any payments to subjects.

1. Local Number of Subjects

Indicate the total number of subjects to be accrued locally.

If applicable, distinguish between the number of subjects who are expected to be enrolled and screened, and the number of subjects needed to complete the research procedures (i.e., numbers of subjects excluding screen failures.)

**IF THIS PROTOCOL INVOLVES ACCESS AND REVIEW OF MEDICAL OR ELECTRONIC RECORDS INDICATE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RECORDS YOU INTEND TO REVIEW.**

1. Confidentiality

If this is a multicenter study, describe the local procedures for maintenance of confidentiality.

* Where and how data or specimens will be stored locally?
* How long the data or specimens will be stored locally?
* Who will have access to the data or specimens locally?
* Who is responsible for receipt or transmission of the data or specimens locally?
* How data and specimens will be transported locally?
1. Provisions to Protect the Privacy Interests of Subjects

Describe the steps that will be taken to protect subjects’ privacy interests. “Privacy interest” refers to a person’s desire to place limits on whom they interact or whom they provide personal information.

Describe what steps you will take to make the subjects feel at ease with the research situation in terms of the questions being asked and the procedures being performed. “At ease” does not refer to physical discomfort, but the sense of intrusiveness a subject might experience in response to questions, examinations, and procedures.

Indicate how the research team is permitted to access any sources of information about the subjects.

1. Compensation for Research-Related Injury

If the research involves more than Minimal Risk to subjects, describe the available compensation in the event of research related injury.

Provide a copy of contract language, if any, relevant to compensation for research-related injury.

1. Economic Burden to Subjects

Describe any costs that subjects may be responsible for because of participation in the research.

1. Consent Process

Indicate whether you will you be obtaining consent, and if so describe:

* Where will the consent process take place.
* Any waiting period available between informing the prospective subject and obtaining the consent.
* Any process to ensure ongoing consent.
* Whether you will be following “SOP: Informed Consent Process for Research (HRP-090).” If not, describe:
	+ The role of the individuals listed in the application as being involved in the consent process.
	+ The time that will be devoted to the consent discussion.
	+ Steps that will be taken to minimize the possibility of coercion or undue influence.
	+ Steps that will be taken to ensure the subjects’ understanding.

**Non-English Speaking Subjects**

* Indicate what language(s) other than English are understood by prospective subjects or representatives.
* If subjects who do not speak English will be enrolled, describe the process to ensure that the oral and written information provided to those subjects will be in that language. Indicate the language that will be used by those obtaining consent.

**Waiver or Alteration of the Consent Process (consent will not be obtained, required information will not be disclosed, or the research involves deception)**

* Review the “CHECKLIST: Waiver or Alteration of the Consent Process (HRP-410)” to ensure you have provided sufficient information for the IRB to make these determinations.
* If the research involves a waiver the consent process for planned emergency research, please review the “CHECKLIST: Waiver of the Consent Process for Emergency Research (HRP-419)” to ensure you have provided sufficient information for the IRB to make these determinations.

**Subjects who are not yet adults (infants, children, teenagers)**

* Describe the criteria that will be used to determine whether a prospective subject has not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved in the research under the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which the research will be conducted. (E.g., individuals under the age of 18 years.)
	+ For research conducted in the state, review “SOP: Legally Authorized Representatives, Children, and Guardians (HRP-013)” to be aware of which individuals in the state meet the definition of “children.”
	+ For research conducted outside of the state, provide information that describes which persons have not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved the research, under the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which research will be conducted. One method of obtaining this information is to have a legal counsel or authority review your protocol along the definition of “children” in “SOP HRP 013: Legally Authorized Representatives, and SOP HRP 014: Children, and Guardians.”
* Describe whether parental permission will be obtained from:
	+ Both parents unless one parent is deceased, unknown, incompetent, or not reasonably available, or when only one parent has legal responsibility for the care and custody of the child.
	+ One parent even if the other parent is alive, known, competent, reasonably available, and shares legal responsibility for the care and custody of the child.
* Describe whether permission will be obtained from individuals other than parents, and if so, who will be allowed to provide permission. Describe the process used to determine these individuals’ authority to consent to each child’s general medical care.
* Indicate whether assent will be obtained from all, some, or none of the children. If assent will be obtained from some children, indicate which children will be required to assent.
* When assent of children is obtained describe whether and how it will be documented.

**Cognitively Impaired Adults**

* Describe the process to determine whether an individual is capable of consent. The IRB allows the person obtaining assent to document assent on the consent document and does not routinely require assent documents and does not routinely require children to sign assent documents.

**Adults Unable to Consent**

* List the individuals from whom permission will be obtained in order of priority. (E.g., durable power of attorney for health care, court appointed guardian for health care decisions, spouse, and adult child.)
	+ For research conducted in the state, review “SOP: HRP 013 Legally Authorized Representatives, and SOP: HRP 014 Children, and Guardians” to be aware of which individuals in the state meet the definition of “legally authorized representative.”
	+ For research conducted outside of the state, provide information that describes which individuals are authorized under applicable law to consent on behalf of a prospective subject to their participation in the procedure(s) involved in this research. One method of obtaining this information is to have a legal counsel or authority review your protocol along the definition of “legally authorized representative” in “SOP:HRP 013 Legally Authorized Representatives, and SOP: HRP 014 Children, and Guardians.”
* Describe the process for assent of the subjects. Indicate whether:
	+ Assent will be required of all, some, or none of the subjects. If some, indicated, which subjects will be required to assent and which will not.
	+ If assent will not be obtained from some or all subjects, an explanation of why not.
	+ Describe whether assent of the subjects will be documented and the process to document assent. The IRB allows the person obtaining assent to document assent on the consent document and does not routinely require assent documents and does not routinely require subjects to sign assent documents.

**Adults Unable to Consent**

For HUD uses provide a description of how the patient will be informed of the potential risks and benefits of the HUD and any procedures associated with its use.

1. Process to Document Consent in Writing

Describe whether you will be following “SOP: Written Documentation of Consent (HRP-091).” If not, describe whether and how consent of the subject will be documented in writing.

If your research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects and involves no procedures for which written documentation of consent is normally required outside of the research context, the IRB will generally waive the requirement to obtain written documentation of consent.

(If you will document consent in writing, attach a consent document. If you will obtain consent, but not document consent in writing, attach a consent script. Review “CHECKLIST: Waiver of Written Documentation of Consent (HRP-411)” to ensure that you have provided sufficient information. You may use “TEMPLATE CONSENT DOCUMENT (HRP-502)”to create the consent document or script.)

1. Drugs or Devices

If the research involves drugs or device, describe your plans to store, handle, and administer those drugs or devices so that they will be used only on subjects and be used only by authorized investigators.