

**CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**REVIEWER GUIDELINES**

**Principal Investigator:**

**Title of Research:**

**Reviewer Name:**

**Date of Review:**

**ALL RESEARCH STUDIES**

**1. RESEARCH STUDY DESIGN**

1.1 Does this study meet the ethical requirements of:

- a) Evidence that knowledge will be generated through this study?
- c) Research is achievable?
- d) Sampling meets ethical principles?

e.g. Sample as small as possible but to allow for analysis?

- e) Research tools are appropriate?
- f) There is an indication of feedback to research participants/community?

**2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS RESEARCH**

- a) Does this research fall in an area of national priority?
- b) Does this research have value to society?
- b) Is the research relevant to the needs of the community under study?

**3. ETHICAL RESEARCH PRACTICE**

Is there evidence of consideration of ethical research practice with regard to:

- a) The research community?
- b) The research participants?
- c) The environment?
- d) Research sponsors? F)
- e) Researcher/s and those directly involved?

**4. JUSTIFICATION FOR HUMAN PARTICIPANTS OR ANIMALS**

Does the educational and/or scientific/knowledge value in the project justify the involvement of human participants or animals?

**5. DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND ANALYSIS**

- a) Is unethical bias likely to be prevented in the planned analysis?

b) If a survey do questions involve any personal, sensitive or incriminating topics or questions? Does the researcher indicate how these will be handled?

## **6. BENEFITS VS HARMS**

a) Does the research meet the criteria for balance of benefit vs harm?

The study presents:

- Minimal risk
- More than minimal risk
- High risk

### **If high risk:**

Who is at risk?

How is the risk to be minimised and controlled?

b) Is there is a referral process for participants suffering adverse events?

## **HUMAN STUDIES**

### **7. RECRUITMENT OF HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

a) Does this research include special or vulnerable populations (e.g. minors, prisoners, fetuses, mentally challenged, aged etc) as participants?

If yes, is it possible to exclude them and still answer the research question?

If no, does the proposal include adequate measures to ensure their protection?

b) Are the criteria for the choice of participant population equitable? (i.e. no unjustified exclusions based on race, gender, culture, religion, sexual orientation, etc.)

c) Are there any concerns about inappropriate inducement or coercion?

### **8. CONSENT FOR HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

a) Does the consent process include the following:

- Documented information letter stating:
  - The nature and purpose of the research;
  - What participation in the research means for the participant;
  - That they will be free to withdraw from participation at any time with no adverse consequences;
  - How the data will be stored, and whether or not confidentiality and/or anonymity are assured;
  - Who can answer questions about the research, including contact information of investigator/student and supervisor
  - Signed consent

b) Are the consent form/letter of information in layman's language and devoid of technical jargon?

c) Is there a process for assuring that the consent/assent is voluntary?

**9. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

- a) Does the recruitment process violate the participant's privacy in any way?
- b) Will the data be kept secure?
- b) How will confidentiality and/or anonymity be assured?

**10. FEEDBACK**

- a) Will the participants be advised of the results of the project?

**ANIMAL STUDIES**

**11. CARE of ANIMALS**

Is the animal care adequately addressed and of required high standard?

- Veterinarian notified of the study and available if needed.
- Cages/feeding/cleaning etc described and adequate.
- Pain and stress kept to a minimum
- Euthanasia or other preparation for animals a termination of study addressed appropriately.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Tick only one option**

- 1. Approve ethics application and proposal as submitted
- 2. Approve ethics application and research proposal with minor modifications/revisions (see below)
- 3. **Resubmit ethics application and proposal for further review after changes**
- 4. Reject the ethics application (see below for reasons)
- 5. Decision pending discussion at committee meeting

**COMMENTS TO SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION AND GUIDE REVISION**