
Yale University Institutional Review Boards

410 PR.2 Recruitment Time Frames and Settings

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Overview

The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) must approve all materials and methods for recruitment before the recruitment activity begins. This is a federal requirement (see 45 CFR §46.116 and 21 CFR §50.20). This procedure provides information for researchers and IRB members in considering the appropriate timing and setting in conducting research recruitment activities.

Recruitment Time Frames and Setting

Ethical Considerations:

The investigator and the Yale IRB must consider whether or not the recruitment methods and activities proposed in a research project uphold the principle of Respect for Persons. For example:

- Will a potential participant be upset when they learn that their private information has been shared with, or viewed by, investigators for research purposes?
- Should a potential participant be invited to take part in research immediately after the individual has been told of a serious disease, illness or condition or behavior disorder?
- Should a person be recruited to take part in a research study when he/she is in a strained state of mind, (e.g., a pregnant woman who is about to deliver her baby), or in a stressful location such as the emergency department?
- Will the setting for recruitment provide subtle inducements to participate, for example, a classroom of fellow students, or an office of co-workers?

General Guidelines and Considerations for the Timing of Recruitment:

- Recruitment methods should demonstrate a respect for a reasonable person's expectation of privacy and confidentiality regarding their private information.
 - Persons should be recruited for research in a manner that upholds their right to choose.
 - Investigators approaching potential subjects for research should ensure that persons are lucid and capable of making independent decisions.
 - As a general rule, recruitment of research participants should be conducted well in advance of the consent process and any research interventions.
 - In cases where it the Investigator believes that recruitment activities can only be conducted in suboptimal time frames and/or settings, the Investigator must explain and justify such arrangements in the IRB application as well as any steps to be taken to minimize the impact on potential participants.
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References

See [Procedure 400 PR.1: Protecting Participants' Research Data](#)

Revision History

Initial approval 12/19/2008; Revised 8/20/2012