**Request to Use Deception in the Conduct of Human Research**

Deception involves the use of limited or partial disclosure in the consent process where full disclosure would render the research *impossible*. Deception is most commonly used in social or psychological research where full disclosure would likely influence the responses received. To be ethically acceptable, research involving deception must meet five tests (see the Standard Application Guidelines, M: Deception). The following questions will help the Human Research Ethics Board to ascertain whether the use of deception is ethically acceptable in this study:

1. Why do you believe this use of deception is unlikely to adversely affect the rights and welfare of participants?

1. Why does this research require the use of deception?
2. Does this study involve a therapeutic intervention of any kind? Describe the intervention below.
3. How do you intend to deceive the participant on the purpose of the study or intended results?

1. What measures will you take to inform participants about the true purpose of the study once they have completed their participation?

* 1. Please provide the ‘debriefing document’ that you will use when informing participants about the full purpose and objectives of the study. Explain how and when this information will be provided to the participants.
  2. Please ensure that the ‘debriefing document’, or debriefing process, includes an opportunity for participants to indicate whether or not they consent to the use of their data, now that they know the full purpose and objectives of the study.[[1]](#footnote-1) For example, “I consent to the use of my information for this research study\_\_\_\_\_; I do not consent to the use of my information for this research study\_\_\_\_\_(participants to provide initials).”

1. As outlined in the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans –* [*TCPS 2 (2022)*](https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2022.html), Article 3.7B, “At the time of debriefing, participants should, whenever possible, practicable and appropriate, be able to indicate their consent/assent or their refusal for the continued use of their data or human biological materials.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)