

## Replacement of Research Ethics “Waiver” with “Application for Approval for Use of Anonymized Data or Anonymized Biological Materials”

October 3, 2013

In order to comply with the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS2)*, the Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) will be phasing out the research ethics **“Waiver Application.”**

Effective December 1, 2013 we will no longer accept **Waiver Applications.**

- The Waiver included five categories of research for ethical review. **“Anonymized data”** is the only remaining category requiring HREB review according to the TCPS2.
- **“Anonymized biological materials”** was not in the Waiver, but is designated by the TCPS2 as requiring HREB review. Anonymized biological materials will also be captured in the new application.

### The new **“Application for Approval for Use of Anonymized Data or Anonymized Biological Materials”**

- ✓ Enables researchers whose study only involve the **receipt of** anonymized primary OR secondary data/biological materials to apply for UVic HREB clearance with a shorter, specialized form than the Standard Research Ethics Application Form
- ✓ Reflects the collaborative, multi-jurisdictional nature of research between UVic and non-UVic researchers
- ✓ Reflects the receipt, sharing, archiving and/or disposal of data/biological materials
- ✓ Complies with the TCPS2
- ✓ Is consistent with requirements of other University regulatory committees (e.g., UVic Biosafety Committee)

**“What if my new study involves a category that was under the Waiver? What should I do?”**

The following categories from the Waiver are **exempt** from HREB review according to the TCPS2. There is no need to apply for ethical approval if your new study falls under one of the following:

- **Research that involves a living individual in the public arena, or is about an artist, based exclusively on publicly available information, documents, records, works, performances, or archival materials.**
- **Research involving observation of participants who are seeking public visibility such as speakers at public political demonstrations, public meetings**
- **Research that involves observations that: does not allow for the identification of the participants; does not involve staging or manipulating the setting/circumstances; and is conducted in an open setting (e.g., parking lot or public park).**
- **Student research which does not deviate from professor’s HREB approved project that is active (e.g., ethics approval has not expired).**  
*Students must ask their supervisor or professor to contact the research ethics office to add their name to the professor’s ethical approval, at 250-472-4545, [ethics@uvic.ca](mailto:ethics@uvic.ca)*

**“What if my current study involves one of the following categories that was under the Waiver and is now exempt? Do I need to renew the Waiver approval?”**

The following categories from the Waiver do not need to be renewed because they are **exempt** from HREB review according to the TCPS2:

- **Research that involves a living individual in the public arena, or is about an artist, based exclusively on publicly available information, documents, records, works, performances, or archival materials.**
- **Research involving observation of participants who are seeking public visibility such as speakers at public political demonstrations, public meetings**
- **Research that involves observations that: does not allow for the identification of the participants; does not involve staging or manipulating the setting/circumstances; and is conducted in an open setting (e.g., parking lot or public park).**
- **Student research which does not deviate from professor’s HREB approved project that is active (e.g., ethics approval has not expired).**  
*Students must ask their supervisor or professor to contact the research ethics office to add their name to the professor’s ethical approval, at 250-472-4545, [ethics@uvic.ca](mailto:ethics@uvic.ca)*

**“My study was previously approved under a Waiver for anonymized data or anonymized biological materials. What form should I use to renew my study’s ethics approval?”**

There is only one Annual Renewal Form that is used for all study renewals. Complete the Annual Renewal Form as best as you can for your project. If questions do not directly relate to your research please insert “N/A.”

**“If I use the new Anonymized Data and Anonymized Biological Materials Application form what form should I use to renew the approval?”**

There is only one Annual Renewal Form that is used for all study renewals. Complete the Annual Renewal Form as best as you can for your project. If questions do not directly relate to your research please insert “N/A.”

**“What should I do if I have an existing Waiver approval for anonymized data or anonymized biological materials that need to be modified?”**

Submit a Request for Modification Form.

**“What if I have questions?”**

Please contact the Research Ethics Office 250-472-4545, [ethics@uvic.ca](mailto:ethics@uvic.ca)