**INSTRUCTIONS:**

* Use “Biomedical Protocol Template (HRP-503)” to prepare a document with the information from following sections.
* Depending on the nature of your study, some sections may not be applicable to your research. If so mark as “NA”. For example, research involving a retrospective chart review may have many sections with “NA.” For subsections, you can delete it if it’s not applicable.
* When you write a protocol, keep an electronic copy. You will need to modify this copy when making changes.
* As you are writing the protocol, remove all instructions in italics so that they are not contained in the final version of your protocol.

**Protocol Title:**

*Include the full protocol title here and in the header.*

**Principal Investigator (PI):**

*Name*

*Institution*

*Telephone Number*

*Email Address*

**Version Number:**

*Include the version number of this protocol here and in the footer*

**Version Date:**

*Include the version date of this protocol here and in the footer*

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# Objectives

* + Describe the purpose, specific aims, or objectives.
  + State the hypotheses to be tested.
  + Describe the primary and secondary study endpoints.
  + Describe, if applicable, any primary or secondary safety endpoints.

# 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 will it add to existing knowledge.

# Study Intervention/Investigational Agent

* + Description: Describe the study intervention and/or investigational agent (e.g., drug, device) that is being evaluated.
  + Drug/Device Handling: 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.
  + If the control of the drugs or devices used in this protocol will be accomplished by following an established, approved organizational SOP (e.g., Research Pharmacy SOP for the Control of Investigational Drugs, etc.), please reference that SOP in this section.

# 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.

# 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 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.

# Procedures 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, the purpose of their use, and their regulatory approval status.
    - The source records that will be used to collect data about subjects. (In IRB Manager, you will be asked to attach all surveys and scripts.)
  + What data will be collected during the study and how that data will be obtained?
  + If there are plans for long-term follow-up (once all research related procedures are complete), what data will be collected during this period?
  + Audio/Video Recording/Photography: If applicable, describe:
    - the type of recording/photography being utilized
    - why the type of recording is necessary to the research
    - how the recordings/photograph(s) will be utilized in the research (e.g., data analysis only)
    - how and where the recordings/photograph(s) are stored, who has access to them, and if/when they will be destroyed.
  + For Humanitarian Use Device (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.

# 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,
    - who will have access to the specimens, and
    - 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.

# 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)
    - If so, describe how the results will be shared.

# Study Timelines

* + Describe:
    - The duration of an individual subject’s participation in the study
    - The duration anticipated to enroll all study subjects.
    - The total number of subjects to be accrued
    - 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)
    - The estimated date for the investigators to complete this study (complete primary analysis)

# Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

* + Describe how individuals will be screened for eligibility.
  + Describe the criteria that define
    - who will be included in your final study sample.
    - Who will be 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 the above 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

# 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. Refer to the checklists below to ensure you have provided sufficient information:
    - “CHECKLIST: Pregnant Women (HRP-412)”
    - “CHECKLIST: Children (HRP-416)”
    - “CHECKLIST: Cognitively Impaired Adults (HRP-417)”

# 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. (In IRB Manager, you will be asked to attach final copies of all recruitment materials with your application.)
    - When advertisements are taped for broadcast, you will be asked to attach the final audio/video tape in IRB Manager. 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.

**Compensation for participation in research activities**

* + Describe the amount and timing of any payments to subjects.

# 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.

# Risks to Subjects

* + List the reasonably foreseeable risks, discomforts, hazards, or inconveniences to the subjects related the subjects’ participation in the research.
    - Include for the IRB’s consideration, a description of the probability, magnitude, duration, and reversibility of the risks.
    - Consider physical, psychological, social, privacy, legal, and economic risks.
  + If applicable:
    - indicate which procedures may have risks to the subjects that are currently unforeseeable;
    - indicate which procedures may have risks to an embryo or fetus should the subject be or become pregnant;
    - describe risks to others who are not subjects.

# 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.

# Data Management and Confidentiality

* + Describe the data analysis plan, including any statistical procedures
  + 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 or 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?
    - How data or specimens will be transported?

# Provisions to Protect the Privacy Interests of Subjects

* + 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.

# Economic Burden to Subjects

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

# Consent Process

* + A Consent Form documents a subject’s willingness to participate in research. A HIPAA Authorization documents a subject’s consent for the use and disclosure of their protected health information (PHI) for the purpose of research. Indicate whether you will you be obtaining consent and HIPAA Authorization, 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.
    - 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.
  + **Waiver or Alteration of Consent Process (consent and HIPAA Authorization will not be obtained, required information will not be disclosed, or the research involves deception)**
    - The requirement to obtain consent and HIPAA authorization may be waived in some cases. Please indicate here if you are submitting a request for waiver or alteration of consent and HIPAA authorization. If so, you will be directed within IRB Manager to provide information sufficient for the IRB to make a determination. No further discussion is required in this protocol.
      * Review the “CHECKLIST: Waiver or Alteration of Consent Process (HRP-410)” to ensure you have provided sufficient information in your submission form on IRB Manager 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 Consent for Emergency Research (HRP-419)” to ensure you have provided sufficient information in your submission form on IRB Manager 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: Legally Authorized Representatives, Children, and Guardians (HRP-013).”
    - 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 Indiana, review “SOP: Legally Authorized Representatives, Children, and Guardians (HRP-013)” to be aware of which individuals in the state meet the definition of “legally authorized representative.”
    - For research conducted outside of Indiana, 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: Legally Authorized Representatives, Children, and Guardians (HRP-013).”
    - 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.
  + **Humanitarian Use Devices**
    - 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.
  + **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.
  + **Process to Document Consent in Writing**
    - 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 consider waiving the requirement to obtain written documentation of consent.
    - (If you will document consent in writing, you will be asked to attach a consent document in IRB Manager. If you will obtain consent, but not document consent in writing, you will be asked to 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.)

# Multi-Site Research

* + Study-Wide Number of Subjects
    - If this is a multicenter study, indicate the total number of subjects to be accrued across all sites.
  + 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. (You will be asked to attach copies of these documents with the application. For advertisements, you will be asked to attach the final copy of printed advertisements. When advertisements are taped for broadcast, you will be asked to 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.)
  + If this is a multi-site study where you are the lead investigator, describe the processes to ensure communication among sites. See “WORKSHEET: Communication and Responsibilities (HRP-830).” All sites have the most current version of the protocol, consent document, and HIPAA authorization.
  + All required approvals (initial, continuing review and modifications) 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, including secure transmission of data, as required by local information security policies.
  + All local site investigators conduct the study in accordance with applicable federal regulations and local laws.
  + All non-compliance with the study protocol or applicable requirements will reported in accordance with local policy.
  + Describe the method for communicating to engaged participating sites (see “WORKSHEET: Communication and Responsibilities (HRP-830)”):
    - Problems (inclusive of reportable events).
    - Interim results.
    - The closure of a study
  + If this is a multicenter study where you are a participating site/investigator, describe the local procedures for maintenance of confidentiality. (See “WORKSHEET: Communication and Responsibilities (HRP-830).”)
    - 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?