



Title **RESEARCH AND ETHICS**

Document type **Policy**

Document owner / Responsibility for review

Director of Education and Research

Department **Chief Executive Officer**

Authorised by

Chief Executive Officer

Section **Education and Research**

Individuals/Groups consulted in review and approval of this document	NHW HREC
Accreditation Standard (<i>Office use only</i>)	National Standard 1 Equip Standard 15
Related documents	Joint NHMRC / AVCC Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice (2007) Ethics Committee Guideline (in Draft) Ethics Application Guideline Expedited Review Guideline HREC Grievance Guideline Research Governance Review Form
Variations from previous versions	829 Version 3 – reviewed June 2017 with title change (previously Research Policy)

Purpose:

To ensure that research undertaken involving staff, clients or systems of Northeast Health Wangaratta (NHW) and/or other external research activities reviewed by the NHW Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) is supported by sound research governance and adheres to a transparent and ethical research approval process in accordance with the NHMRC Australian Codes (1).

Definition:

Research covers three activities: basic research, applied research and experimental development.

Basic research is experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view.

- **Applied research** is also original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective.
- **Experimental development** is systematic work, drawing on existing knowledge gained from research and/or practical experience, which is directed to producing new materials, products or devices, to installing new processes, systems and services, or to improving substantially those already produced or installed.

Quality Improvement or Assurance are activities whose primary purpose is to monitor or evaluate the quality of service provided. Most quality improvement activities do not require ethics approval however there are times when QA activities may be of such design or intent that they require HREC review (2).

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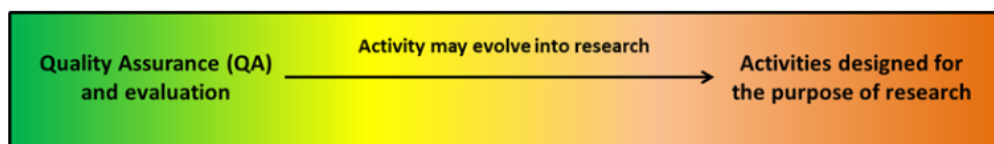
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<p>Ethical review and approval not necessary where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data being collected and analysed is coincidental to standard operating procedures with standard equipment and/or protocols. Data is being collected and analysed expressly for the purpose of maintaining standards or identifying areas for improvement in the environment from which the data was obtained. The data being collected and analysed is not linked to individuals. None of the triggers for consideration of ethical review (see right) are present. 	<p>Triggers for ethical review and approval include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the activity potentially infringes the privacy or professional reputation of participants, providers or organisations. Secondary use of data - using data or analysis for QA or evaluation activities for other purposes. Gathering information about the participant beyond that which is collected routinely. Information may include biospecimens or additional investigations. Testing of non-standard (innovative) protocols or equipment. Comparison of cohorts.
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(4) Source: QUT (2016) Quality Assurance Activities <http://www.orei.qut.edu.au/human/guidance/qa.jsp> accessed 31 May 2017 cited with reference to (2) *Ethical Considerations in Quality Assurance and Evaluation Activities*, NHMRC 2014.

Human research ethics and level of risk are both defined according *The National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*.

Policy statement:

The research program at NHW **is directed through the Education and Research Unit and forms part of the organisational clinical governance through its support of Evidence-based medicine (EBM).**

NHW HREC may receive applications for ethics approval from internal or external researchers.

Internal Research and Ethics:

Research conducted onsite at NHW is required to have both HREC and Research Governance approval appointed prior to commencement. (Refer Appendix for Governance Review Form)

Ethics application and approval by NHW HREC will be registered by the Secretary of the HREC and reported monthly via the Research Governance Officer to the Director of Education and Research.

All research undertaken at NHW must comply with:

- a. National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)
- b. Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)

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- c. NHW policies and procedures including those related to ethics and research governance.
- d. relevant legislation, regulations, codes and guidelines

External Research and Ethics:

NHW HREC is registered with the National Health and Medical Research Council (EC00256) (3).

External researchers may submit ethics applications to NHW HREC for consideration and approval provided that they comply with:

- a. National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)
- b. Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)
- c. NHW policy and procedures related to the submission of ethics applications
- d. Relevant legislation, regulations, codes and guidelines

Additional Information:

References:

(1) https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/e72_national_statement_may_2015_150514_a.pdf

(2) Ethical Considerations in Quality Assurance and Evaluation Activities. <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/e111>(Accessed 27/03/2017)

(3) List of Human Research Ethics Committees registered with NHMRC. <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-ethics/human-research-ethics-committees-hrecs> (Accessed 27 03 2017)

(4) QUT (2016) Quality Assurance Activities <http://www.orei.qut.edu.au/human/guidance/qa.jsp> accessed 31 May 2017

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