



IRB 360 NEWSLETTER

Connecting Research with Ethics

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LAUNCH OF THE NEW REVIEW NOT REQUIRED (RNR) CATEGORY

To reduce the efforts required for obtaining ethics approvals, NTU-IRB is announcing the launch of the new **Review Not Required (RNR)** category.

PIs conducting **secondary research** on anonymised datasets or anonymised Human Biological Material (HBM) may now apply under the new **RNR Category** without needing to go through IRB review.

SCOPE OF RNR CATEGORY

The study team is conducting secondary research (i.e. no interaction or interventions with human subjects) and there will be no access to linkers to re-identify the subjects or attempts to re-contact the subjects.

The study team only has access to anonymized data or anonymized Human Biological Materials (HBM).

*The study does not come under the HBRA, nor Restricted or Prohibited Human Biomedical Research, nor involve the use of **Human Tissues**.*

Click here for the new [RNR Guidelines](#).

LOWER REVIEW CATEGORY FOR CERTAIN STUDIES

In-line with the new RNR category and the revised Exempt Category 4 criteria, certain studies will now be reviewed under a **lower category**. See below.

Expedited Category

Use of publicly-available data in identifiable form

Example
A study obtains publicly available data (e.g. from social media sites) while retaining the subjects' identifiers (e.g. names, pictures) for secondary analysis

Exempt Category 4

Study team only has access to anonymized data

Example
A study obtains student data from various MOE schools for secondary analysis. The data was effectively anonymised by the schools before sending.

[NEW] RNR Category

Click here for the revised [Exempt Category 4 Guidelines](#).

Stay tuned for our next newsletter to learn more!

To subscribe to our mailing list and for further queries, please write to IRB@ntu.edu.sg

Brought to you by: **Research Integrity and Ethics Office (RIEO)**

Refer to our website for more information on IRB Guidelines [here](#).

