DNP Student Projects – Role of the IRB

Modified: September 2019

Background:

The D.N.P. degree is a practice-focused doctorate designed to prepare expert nurses in specialized advanced practice roles. Graduates serve as nurse practitioners who can lead change in clinical care and healthcare policy, and they fill critical needs for primary and specialty care providers across the state of Florida and our nation.

Each D.N.P. candidate completes a focused scholarly work near the end of his or her curriculum. This project focuses on identifying, analyzing, and improving problems that impact patient care. These projects are typically “Quality Improvement” projects, but in some cases qualify as “Research” projects as well. If a D.N.P. qualifies as a “Research” project it must be reviewed and approve by an IRB.

1. Q: How is a “Quality Only” project differentiated from a “Quality” project that also involves “Research”?


2. Q: Are there different requirements based on which DNP program the student is enrolled, and where the project is being conducted?

Yes. If a local project, and if the QIPR questions indicate that the study might need IRB approval, the following chart will address those differences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DNP Program</th>
<th>Location of Project</th>
<th>Location of Mentor</th>
<th>Risk Level of Project</th>
<th>Which IRB to Submit</th>
<th>Can the DNP Student be the PI?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UF</td>
<td>UFHealth</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Minimal Risk</td>
<td>UF IRB-01 or IRB-02 (no PHI)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF</td>
<td>Outside of UFHealth</td>
<td>Must be at site where project is conducted</td>
<td>Minimal Risk</td>
<td>The IRB at the site where the project is conducted. CON must confirm.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not UF</td>
<td>UFHealth</td>
<td>Local (if not local, their role is minimized)</td>
<td>Minimal Risk</td>
<td>UF IRB-01 or IRB-02 (no PHI)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Q: If the project is “Quality Only”, is the HIPAA rule still in effect?

Yes. The HIPAA authorization that patients sign to be treated, covers “Quality Only” projects and thus there is not a requirement for patients to sign another HIPAA authorization if their data is being used. However, protected health information (PHI) cannot be share outside of UFHealth unless approved by
the Privacy Office.

4. **What if it is not clear that a project is “Quality Only” and not “Human Subjects Research” as well?**

   If there is a question, please contact the IRB Office at 352-273-9612.