Anonymous vs. Coded (or linked)

Many times anonymous and coded (or linked) are used interchangeably but they are two distinct terms. Determining whether data is anonymous or coded (or linked) is important especially when attempting to determine if a study is Exempt or Expedited. Note: A study that has been approved as Exempt cannot be revised to be an Expedited study. Anonymous data is collected in such a way that the identity of the participant must not be known by the researcher at any time, for any reason. Anonymous data could never be linked back to the participant. Data collected with codes has links to the participant. It is important for Researchers to delineate who will have access to the identifiable data, if/when the code key will be destroyed, and how the confidentiality will be maintained. If further clarification is needed, please contact the appropriate IRB Office for clarification.

myIRB Frequently Asked Question:

**Question:** I am being asked questions about the VA in myIRB but my study is only at UF and Shands. I do not have the VA listed as a site. Help!

**Answer:** As each individual performs the Agree to Participate activity, they are asked to provide their affiliation. If they indicate that they are affiliated with the VA it triggers the questions regardless of the sites listed for the study. Have each person check their affiliation. The Agree to Participate activity is STUDY specific and should be completed based on their time and resources for that specific study.

News:

The September Brown Bag will be held on September 10, 2014 at noon in Room 104 of the Broad Building. The presenter will be Barbara Frentzen, ARNP, MSN, Florida Center for Brain Tumor Research, Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute. An official announcement will be sent out.