



Purpose: When the Overall Principal Investigator and/or Lead Study Team is located at UK, this document can be used to provide them with guidance regarding the additional responsibilities accrued in assuming that role.

Overall Principal Investigator/Lead Study Team Guidance and Checklist

As the Overall Principal Investigator for a study for which research activities involving human subjects will be overseen by the UK IRB for all or most sites, you should be aware of your additional responsibilities in assuming that role. Once you have agreed to collaborate with investigators at another institution(s) and intend to use a single IRB (sIRB) for oversight of this study:

You should contact the IRB Reliance Staff at UK to:

- Discuss whether UK's IRB can act as the sIRB for all or some institutions participating in this study or whether another external IRB would be appropriate.
- Identify who will act in the role of the Lead Study Team (e.g., your own study team, a coordinating center, or both). The Lead Study Team assumes additional responsibilities when sIRB review will be used.
- Provide relying sites with details about the study, including the studywide protocol and template consent document(s), which will help facilitate the discussion with the UK IRB/HRPP.
- Identify all sites that will be engaged in human subjects research and thus need IRB coverage.

If UK agrees to serve as sIRB for the study, you will need to ensure the Lead Study Team does the following:

- Completes a reliance request with the UK IRB using the process required by the UK HRPP.
- Works in collaboration with the UK IRB to determine and document specific roles and responsibilities for communicating and coordinating key information to Relying Institutions; this includes developing a plan for communicating with collaborators across the lifetime of the study (i.e. regular conference calls, site initiation procedures and training materials).
- Promptly responds to questions or requests for information from study teams and IRB/HRPP personnel at institutions who are relying on the UK IRB.
- Participates in conference calls regarding a study as requested.
- Provides the Site Investigators with the IRB policies of the UK IRB. This includes, but is not limited to, policies for reporting unanticipated problems, noncompliance, and subject complaints.
- Provides participating Relying Site Study Teams with the IRB-approved versions of all study documents (e.g., consent and authorization forms, protocol, recruitment materials).
- Prepares and submits IRB applications on behalf of all sites (UK and relying), including initial reviews, local amendments, personnel updates, local reportable events, and studywide information for continuing review.

As part of preparing the IRB application, the Lead Study Team (or designee) must:

- Have a mechanism in place to obtain and collate information from Relying Site Study Teams and/or Relying Site Points of Contacts (POCs), depending on who is designated to provide that information at the Relying Institution, regarding local variations in study conduct, such as recruitment materials and process, consent process and language, and subject identification processes.

- Assist Relying Site Study Teams and/or POCs at the Relying Institution(s), depending on who is designated to provide that information, in ensuring consent documents follow the UK IRB's template form and include applicable local institutional required language from each Relying Institution.
- Notifies Site Investigators of all UK IRB determinations and communications, including those for initial review, continuing review, amendments, reportable events, suspensions, and terminations.
- When agreed upon, in coordination with the UK IRB, promptly reports to the Site Investigator (or designee on the Relying Site Study Team) any unanticipated problems involving risks to subjects or others, research-related subject injuries, or subject complaints that are related to or may affect subjects participating in the research (i.e., the specific study or studies ceded to the UK IRB) at the Relying Institution.
- If a Relying Site Study Team does not provide the Lead Study Team (or designee) with the site-specific required progress report information before the continuing review application is submitted to the UK IRB, then report the absence of this information as part of the continuing review and notify affected Relying Site Study Team of the approval expiration for their site and any applicable corrective action plans.
- Providing access, upon request, to study records for audit by the Relying Institution, the UK IRB, and other regulatory or monitoring entities.
- Follow all requirements of the Relying Institution with regard to ceded review, such as ensuring administrative requirements for documenting ceded review have been met before study activation occurs at a Relying Institution.