**INSTRUCTIONS:**

* Use “TEMPLATE PROTOCOL” to prepare a document with the information from following sections.
* Depending on the nature of your study, some sections may not be applicable to your research. If so mark as “NA”. For example, research involving a retrospective chart review may have many sections with “NA.” For subsections, like 1.x or 8.x, you can delete it if it’s not applicable.
* When you write a protocol, keep an electronic copy. You will need to modify this copy when making changes.
* As you are writing the protocol, remove all instructions in italics so that they are not contained in the final version of your protocol.
* Omit starred (\*) items if this is the activation of a protocol at a new site or sites that will be overseen by a principal investigator who will take separate and full responsibility for that site or those sites. Complete by describing information specific to the site(s). Do not repeat information in the approved protocol that applies to all site(s).

**PROTOCOL TITLE:**

*Include the full protocol title.*

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

*Name*

*Department*

*Telephone Number*

*Email Address*

**VERSION NUMBER/DATE:**

*Include the version number and date of this protocol.*

**REVISION HISTORY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Revision #** | **Version Date** | **Summary of Changes** | **Consent Change?** |
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# Study Summary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Study Title** |  |
| **Study Design** |  |
| **Primary Objective** |  |
| **Secondary Objective(s)** |  |
| **Research Intervention(s)/ Investigational Agent(s)** |  |
| **IND/IDE #** |  |
| **Study Population** |  |
| **Sample Size** |  |
| **Study Duration for individual participants** |  |
| **Study Specific Abbreviations/ Definitions** |  |

# Objectives\*

* 1. Describe the purpose, specific aims, or objectives.
  2. State the hypotheses to be tested.

# Background\*

* 1. Describe the relevant prior experience and gaps in current knowledge.
  2. Describe any relevant preliminary data.
  3. Provide the scientific or scholarly background for, rationale for, and significance of the research based on the existing literature and how will it add to existing knowledge.

# Study Endpoints\*

* 1. Describe the primary and secondary study endpoints.
  2. Describe any primary or secondary safety endpoints.

# Study Intervention/Investigational Agent

* 1. Description: *Describe the study intervention and/or investigational agent (e.g., drug, device) that is being evaluated including dose, dosage form (e.g. 5mg tablet), and frequency. Also indicate the phase of the study.*
  2. Drug/Device Handling: If the research involves drugs or device, describe your plans to store, handle, and administer those drugs or devices so that they will be used only on subjects and be used only by authorized investigators.
  3. If the drug is investigational (has an IND) or the device has an IDE or a claim of abbreviated IDE (non-significant risk device), include the following information:
     + Identify the holder of the IND/IDE/Abbreviated IDE.
     + Explain procedures followed to comply with sponsor requirements for FDA regulated research for the following:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Applicable to:*** | | |
| ***FDA Regulation*** | ***IND Studies*** | ***IDE studies*** | ***Abbreviated IDE studies*** |
| ***21 CFR 11*** | ***X*** | ***X*** |  |
| ***21 CFR 54*** | ***X*** | ***X*** |  |
| ***21 CFR 210*** | ***X*** |  |  |
| ***21 CFR 211*** | ***X*** |  |  |
| ***21 CFR 312*** | ***X*** |  |  |
| ***21 CFR 812*** |  | ***X*** | ***X*** |
| ***21 CFR 820*** |  | ***X*** |  |

# Procedures Involved\*

* 1. Describe and explain the study design.
  2. Provide a description of all research procedures being performed and when they are performed, including procedures being performed to monitor subjects for safety or minimize risks.
  3. Describe:
     + Procedures performed to lessen the probability or magnitude of risks.
     + All drugs and devices used in the research and the purpose of their use, and their regulatory approval status.
     + The source records that will be used to collect data about subjects. (Attach all surveys, scripts, and data collection forms.)
  4. What data will be collected during the study and how that data will be obtained.
  5. If there are plans for long-term follow-up (once all research related procedures are complete), what data will be collected during this period.
  6. For Humanitarian Use Device (HUD) uses provide a description of the device, a summary of how you propose to use the device, including a description of any screening procedures, the HUD procedure, and any patient follow-up visits, tests or procedures.

# Data and Specimen Banking\*

* 1. If data or specimens will be banked for future use, describe where the specimens will be stored, how long they will be stored, how the specimens will be accessed, and who will have access to the specimens.
  2. List the data to be stored or associated with each specimen.
  3. Describe the procedures to release data or specimens, including: the process to request a release, approvals required for release, who can obtain data or specimens, and the data to be provided with specimens.

# Sharing of Results with Subjects\*

* 1. Describe whether results (study results or individual subject results, such as results of investigational diagnostic tests, genetic tests, or incidental findings) will be shared with subjects or others (e.g., the subject’s primary care physicians) and if so, describe how the results will be shared.

# Study Timelines\*

* 1. Describe:
     + The duration of an individual subject’s participation in the study.
     + The duration anticipated to enroll all study subjects.
     + The estimated date for the investigators to complete this study (complete primary analyses)

# Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria\*

* 1. Describe how individuals will be screened for eligibility.
  2. Describe the criteria that define who will be included or excluded in your final study sample.
  3. Indicate specifically whether you will include or exclude each of the following special populations: (You may not include members of the above populations as subjects in your research unless you indicate this in your inclusion criteria.)
     + Individuals who are not yet adults (infants, children, teenagers)
     + Prisoners

# Vulnerable Populations\*

* 1. If the research involves individuals who are vulnerable to coercion or undue influence, describe additional safeguards included to protect their rights and welfare.

# Local Number of Subjects

* 1. Indicate the total number of subjects to be accrued locally.
  2. If applicable, distinguish between the number of subjects who are expected to be enrolled and screened, and the number of subjects needed to complete the research procedures (i.e., numbers of subjects excluding screen failures.)

# Recruitment Methods

* 1. Describe when, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited.
  2. Describe the source of subjects.
  3. Describe the methods that will be used to identify potential subjects.
  4. Describe materials that will be used to recruit subjects. (Attach copies of these documents with the application. For advertisements, attach the final copy of printed advertisements. When advertisements are taped for broadcast, attach the final audio/video tape. You may submit the wording of the advertisement prior to taping to preclude re-taping because of inappropriate wording, provided the IRB reviews the final audio/video tape.)
  5. Describe the amount and timing of any payments to subjects.

# Withdrawal of Subjects\*

* 1. Describe anticipated circumstances under which subjects will be withdrawn from the research without their consent.
  2. Describe any procedures for orderly termination.
  3. Describe procedures that will be followed when subjects withdraw from the research, including partial withdrawal from procedures with continued data collection.

# Risks to Subjects\*

* 1. List the reasonably foreseeable risks, discomforts, hazards, or inconveniences to the subjects related the subjects’ participation in the research. Include as may be useful for the IRB’s consideration, a description of the probability, magnitude, duration, and reversibility of the risks. Consider physical, psychological, social, legal, and economic risks.
  2. If applicable, indicate which procedures may have risks to the subjects that are currently unforeseeable.
  3. If applicable, indicate which procedures may have risks to an embryo or fetus should the subject be or become pregnant.
  4. If applicable, describe risks to others who are not subjects.

# Potential Benefits to Subjects\*

* 1. Describe the potential benefits that individual subjects may experience from taking part in the research. Include as may be useful for the IRB’s consideration, the probability, magnitude, and duration of the potential benefits.
  2. Indicate if there is no direct benefit.

# Data Management\* and Confidentiality

* 1. Describe the data analysis plan, including any statistical procedures or power analysis.
  2. Describe the steps that will be taken to secure the data (e.g., training, authorization of access, password protection, encryption, physical controls, certificates of confidentiality, and separation of identifiers and data) during storage, use, and transmission. Children’s Business Intelligence requires the following data storage elements for every study that uses CHOA data. Please include this language in each protocol: “Data will be stored on each users secure servers and not downloaded to external devices, including laptops. The information, even if de-identified, will be destroyed at the expiration of the project.” Also state whether or not the only data used for this study is Children’s data. If data from other institutions will be used, specify those locations as well (includes Emory Healthcare data).
  3. Describe any procedures that will be used for quality control of collected data.
  4. Describe how data or specimens will be handled study-wide:
     + What information will be included in that data or associated with the specimens?
     + Where and how data or specimens will be stored?
     + How long the data or specimens will be stored?
     + Who will have access to the data or specimens?
     + Who is responsible for receipt or transmission of the data or specimens?
     + How data or specimens will be transported?
     + At the conclusion of the study, how long will the data or specimens be kept and how will they be destroyed or returned?

# Provisions to Monitor the Data to Ensure the Safety of Subjects\*

This section is required when research involves more than Minimal Risk to subjects.

* 1. Describe:
     + The plan to periodically evaluate the data collected regarding both harms and benefits to determine whether subjects remain safe. The plan might include establishing a data monitoring committee and a plan for reporting data monitoring committee findings to the IRB and the sponsor.
     + What data are reviewed, including safety data, untoward events, and efficacy data.
     + How the safety information will be collected (e.g., with case report forms, at study visits, by telephone calls with participants).
     + The frequency of data collection, including when safety data collection starts.
     + Who will review the data.
     + The frequency or periodicity of review of cumulative data.
     + The statistical tests for analyzing the safety data to determine whether harm is occurring.
     + Any conditions that trigger an immediate suspension of the research.

# Provisions to Protect the Privacy Interests of Subjects

# *Describe the steps that will be taken to protect participants’ privacy interests. Privacy is the control over the extent, timing, and circumstances of sharing oneself (physically, behaviorally, or intellectually) with others. Privacy is in the eye of the participant, not the researcher or IRB.*

# *See below for examples of Privacy Interests*

# *How/where subjects will be approached for recruitment (Ex: not in large open waiting room, but in a private clinic room).*

# *How/Where consent will be obtained (Ex: in a private setting)*

# *Describe how you will protect subject privacy during research examinations, interviews or procedures*

# *If subjects are providing information/survey/questionnaires, describe if they are able to choose to not answer questions that make them uncomfortable*

# *Emailing/Phone Calls- How will you ensure the research conversations are private (Ex: Not using shared email address, asking if subject is alone when taking phone survey)*

# *Focus Groups/Group Research- Will you have options for aliases? Especially important for sensitive issues/topics*

# Compensation for Research-Related Injury

* 1. If the research involves more than Minimal Risk to subjects, describe the available compensation in the event of research related injury.
  2. Provide a copy of contract language, if any, relevant to compensation for research-related injury.

# Economic Burden to Subjects

* 1. Describe any costs that subjects may be responsible for because of participation in the research.

# Consent Process

* 1. Indicate whether you will you be obtaining consent, and if so describe:
     + Where will the consent process take place
     + Any waiting period available between informing the prospective subject and obtaining the consent.
     + Any process to ensure ongoing consent.
       - The time that will be devoted to the consent discussion.
       - Steps that will be taken to minimize the possibility of coercion or undue influence.
       - Steps that will be taken to ensure the subjects’ understanding.

**Non-English Speaking Subjects**

* + - Indicate what language(s) other than English are understood by prospective subjects or representatives.
    - If subjects who do not speak English will be enrolled, describe the process to ensure that the oral and written information provided to those subjects will be in that language. Indicate the language that will be used by those obtaining consent.

**Waiver or Alteration of Consent Process (consent will not be obtained, required information will not be disclosed, or the research involves deception)**

* + - For alteration of consent:
      * Explain how the only record linking the subject and the research would be the consent.
      * Explain how the principal risk would be potential harm resulting from a breach of confidentiality

OR

* Explain how the research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects.
* Explain how the research involves no procedures for which written consent is normally required outside of the research context.
* For waiver of consent:
  + Explain how the research involves no more than minimal risk
  + Explain why the waiver or alteration will not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the participants.
  + Explain why the research could not practicably be carried out without the waiver or alteration.

**Subjects who are not yet adults (infants, children, teenagers)**

* + - Describe the criteria that will be used to determine whether a prospective subject has not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved in the research under the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which the research will be conducted. (E.g., individuals under the age of 18 years.)
    - Describe whether parental permission will be obtained from:
      * Both parents unless one parent is deceased, unknown, incompetent, or not reasonably available, or when only one parent has legal responsibility for the care and custody of the child.
      * One parent even if the other parent is alive, known, competent, reasonably available, and shares legal responsibility for the care and custody of the child.
    - Describe whether permission will be obtained from individuals other than parents, and if so, who will be allowed to provide permission. Describe the process used to determine these individuals’ authority to consent to each child’s general medical care.
    - Indicate whether assent will be obtained from all, some, or none of the children. If assent will be obtained from some children, indicate which children will be required to assent.
    - When assent of children is obtained describe whether and how it will be documented.

# Process to Document Consent in Writing

* 1. Describe whether and how consent of the subject will be documented in writing.
  2. If your research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects and involves no procedures for which written documentation of consent is normally required outside of the research context, the IRB will generally waive the requirement to obtain written documentation of consent.
  3. If you will document consent in writing, attach a consent document. If you will obtain consent, but not document consent in writing, attach a consent script.

# HIPAA Applicability

* 1. *Describe the use of PHI in the study.*
  2. *If PHI is being used, indicate whether there will be Written Authorization, a Partial Waiver, Full Waiver, or Alteration of HIPAA Authorization.*
  3. *If requesting a waiver of HIPAA authorization (partial, full, or alteration) please include the following:*
     + *Describe the plan to protect identifiers from disclosure or improper use.*
     + *Describe an adequate plan to destroy the identifiers at the earliest possible opportunity consistent with the conduct of research.*
     + *Describe written assurances that the identifiers will not be re-used or disclosed to any other person or entity (except as required by law, for authorized oversight of the research, or for other research for which the use of disclosure of PHI would be permitted by HIPAA)*
     + *Certify and describe why the research cannot practicably be conducted without access to and use of PHI.*
     + *Describe why the waiver will not adversely affect the rights or welfare of the research subject.*
     + *Note: If accessing psychotherapy notes (notes recorded by a health care provider who is a mental health professional documenting or analyzing the contents of conversation during a private counseling session or a group, joint, or family counseling session and that are separated from the rest of the of the individual’s medical record), the study is not eligible for a HIPAA waiver.*

# Setting

* 1. Describe the sites or locations where your research team will conduct the research.
     + Identify where your research team will identify and recruit potential subjects.
     + Identify where research procedures will be performed.
     + Describe the composition and involvement of any community advisory board.
     + For research conducted outside of the organization and its affiliates describe:
       - Site-specific regulations or customs affecting the research for research outside the organization.
       - Local scientific and ethical review structure outside the organization.

# Resources Available

* 1. Describe the resources available to conduct the research: For example, as appropriate:
     + Justify the feasibility of recruiting the required number of suitable subjects within the agreed recruitment period. For example, how many potential subjects do you have access to? What percentage of those potential subjects do you need to recruit?
     + Describe the time that you will devote to conducting and completing the research.
     + Describe your facilities.
     + Describe the availability of medical or psychological resources that subjects might need as a result of an anticipated consequences of the human research.
     + Describe your process to ensure that all persons assisting with the research are adequately informed about the protocol, the research procedures, and their duties and functions.

# Multi-Site Research\*

* 1. *Study-Wide Number of Subjects\**

*If this is a multicenter study, indicate the total number of subjects to be accrued across all sites.*

* 1. Study-Wide Recruitment Methods\*
     + If this is a multicenter study and subjects will be recruited by methods not under the control of the local site (e.g., call centers, national advertisements) describe those methods. Local recruitment methods are described later in the protocol.
     + Describe when, where, and how potential subjects will be recruited.
     + Describe the methods that will be used to identify potential subjects.
     + Describe materials that will be used to recruit subjects. (Attach copies of these documents with the application. For advertisements, attach the final copy of printed advertisements. When advertisements are taped for broadcast, attach the final audio/video tape. You may submit the wording of the advertisement prior to taping to preclude re-taping because of inappropriate wording, provided the IRB reviews the final audio/video tape.)
     + If this is a multi-site study where you are the lead investigator, describe the processes to ensure communication among sites. All sites must have the most current version of the protocol, consent document, and HIPAA authorization.
     + All required approvals (initial, continuing review and modifications) have been obtained at each site (including approval by the site’s IRB of record).
     + All modifications have been communicated to sites, and approved (including approval by the site’s IRB of record) before the modification is implemented.
     + All engaged participating sites will safeguard data, including secure transmission of data, as required by local information security policies.
     + All local site investigators conduct the study in accordance with applicable federal regulations and local laws.
     + All non-compliance with the study protocol or applicable requirements will reported in accordance with local policy.
  2. Describe the method for communicating to engaged participating sites:
     + Problems (inclusive of reportable events).
     + Interim results.
     + The closure of a study
  3. If this is a multicenter study where you are a participating site/investigator, describe the local procedures for maintenance of confidentiality.
     + Where and how data or specimens will be stored locally?
     + How long the data or specimens will be stored locally?
     + Who will have access to the data or specimens locally?
     + Who is responsible for receipt or transmission of the data or specimens locally?
     + How data and specimens will be transported locally?