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**Boston  
Children's  
Hospital**

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Applicability Boston Children's  
Hospital- Policies  
& Procedures

## Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Policy/ Procedure

### Internal Approval

SVP, Research

EVP & Chief Scientific Officer, Research

### Scope

This policy applies to all Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) licensed locations, BCH operational and clinical departments, and staff (inclusive of W-2 employees, contracted staff, and members of the medical staff irrespective of their appointment category or employer). As applicable, the policy also applies to foundation practices leasing space at hospital-licensed locations.

### Definitions

**Community-based participatory research (CBPR):** A collaborative approach to research that combines methods of inquiry with community capacity building strategies to bridge the gap between knowledge produced through research and what is practices in communities to improve their health and well-being.

### Policy Statements

The policy enumerates the additional considerations and resources needed for planning and executing community-based participatory research (CBPR).

When the Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews Community-based participatory research (CPBR), they will consider, in addition to the criteria for IRB approval as outlined in the federal regulations, any appropriate factors related to the community setting. IRB considerations could include:

1. Whether community members will be both in the role of "investigator" and "subject" and if so, whether the community participant is engaged in human subject research.
2. Should the research team include members of the community as members of the research team in order to assist in the identification and recruitment of potential participants.
3. The need to maintain trust with the community if one of its members participates in conducting the research
4. Creating and using advisory panels which are comprised of in whole or in part prospective participants or parents of prospective participants representing the population that will be the subject of research (e.g., a rare disease, HIV/AIDS, disenfranchised communities, etc.)
5. Members of the community involved in screening and/or recruitment procedures receive adequate training to perform research-related functions.

CBPR is research that is conducted as an equal partnership between traditionally trained "experts" and members of a community.

CBPR encourages collaboration of "formally trained research" partners from any area of expertise, provided that the researcher provides expertise that is seen as useful to the investigation by the community, and be fully committed to a partnership of equals and producing outcomes usable to the community.

Community members should be involved with the identifying the issues of concern and need for research.

The research should facilitate collaborative equitable partnerships with the community at all stages: planning, implementing, and the dissemination of results.

CBPR permits building on the community resources and strengths while promotes co-learning and capacity building among all partners. This also helps emphasize the local relevance of the issues to be studied.

## Procedures

When the IRB reviews CBPR, they should consider, in addition to the criteria for IRB approval as outlined in the federal regulations, any appropriate factors related to the community setting, such as:

- Will community members be both in the role of "investigator" and "subject"? And if so, whether the community participant is engaged in human subject research.
- Should the research team include members of the community as members of the research team in order to assist in the identification and recruitment of potential participants?
- The need to maintain trust with the community if one of its members participates in conducting the research
- Creating and using advisory panels which are comprised of in whole or in part, prospective participants or parents of prospective participants representing the population that will be the subject of research (e.g. a rare disease, HIV/AIDS, disenfranchised communities, etc.)
- Members of the community involved in screening and/or recruitment procedures receive adequate training to perform research-related functions.

# Related Content

- IRB Policy: International and Cross-cultural Research

## Approval Signatures

Step Description

Approver

Date

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## Applicability

Boston Children's Hospital- Policies & Procedures

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