New! HiREB Guidelines on Secondary Use of Information and/or Samples for Research Purposes

(May 31, 2024): HiREB is pleased to announce the release of our new Guidelines on the Secondary Use of Information and/or Samples for research Purposes. This document is now available on the HiREB website.

We hope that providing this information will assist researchers in designing and conducting their secondary use research projects.

Summary of Contents

The new guidance:
- Provides a description of secondary use studies including chart reviews, case reports and case series.
- Describes when REB review is required (or not required) for secondary use studies
- Outlines the obligations of the researchers when conducting secondary use studies
- Provides guidelines on when informed consent is required for secondary use studies

What is new/changed?

The majority of the information in this document is not new/does not represent a change in HiREB policies or procedures. The document is based on the requirements of the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS 2 2022) and the Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA 2004), with additional guidance from CIHR’s Best Practices for Protecting Privacy in Health Research (2005).

The new element is that we have defined Case Series that include less than three patients as non-research activities — these projects do not require REB review.

Questions? Please contact:
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