

University of Kentucky Office of Research Integrity and Institutional Review Board Standard Operating Procedures			
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Approved By: ORI Director	Signature	Date	Date First Effective: 07-24-06
Approved By: Nonmedical IRB Chair	Signature	Date	
Approved By: Medical IRB Chair	Signature	Date	Revision Date: 07-31-09

OBJECTIVE

To describe the procedure for the emergency use of a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulated investigational drug, biologic, or device in a single subject

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The need for an investigational drug, biologic, or device may arise in an emergency situation that does not allow time for submission of an investigational new drug (IND) application or investigational device exemption (IDE) in accordance with federal regulations.

Although the FDA may exempt the requirement for prior review and approval by the IRB in emergency use cases [21 CFR 56.104(c)], University of Kentucky (UK) Institutional Review Board (IRB) policy requires prior review and confirmation that use of the article meets FDA criteria by the IRB Chair, Vice Chair, or physician member in these situations. If the emergency use involves a subject from the VA Medical Center, the VA Research and Development Committee (VA R & D Committee) has additional requirements.

In accord with FDA regulations, any subsequent use of the test article in another subject must first receive full IRB review, and, if applicable, full VA R & D Committee approval. The FDA acknowledges, however, that it would be inappropriate to deny emergency treatment to a second individual if the only obstacle is that the IRB has not had sufficient time to convene a meeting to review the issue.

In activities regulated by 45 CFR 46, an investigator may not use data related to emergency care (i.e., single patient administration) as a prospectively planned systematic investigation designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge. Investigators may not aggregate such data with research data, even if the emergency protocol is identical to that of a research protocol subsequently approved by the IRB, nor may the investigator include the outcome of such care in any report of a research activity.

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If the activity involves emergency use of an FDA regulated test article in a life-threatening situation, the activity is research under FDA regulations, and the patient is a subject under FDA regulations. The FDA may require data from an emergency use of a test article in a life-threatening situation to be reported in a marketing application.

Definitions

Emergency Use is defined as the use of a test article (e.g., investigational drug, biologic, or device) on a human subject in a life-threatening situation in which no standard acceptable treatment is available and in which there is not sufficient time to obtain IRB approval.

RESPONSIBILITY

Execution of SOP: Office of Research Integrity (ORI) Staff, IRB, IRB Chair, IRB Vice Chair, Physician IRB Member, Principal Investigator (PI)/Study Personnel

PROCEDURES

1. Before administering, the Principal Investigator (PI) submits the following information directly to the IRB Chair for review and confirmation for emergency use of a test article in a single subject:
 - Written memorandum, email, or telephone call summary of explanation which justifies administration of the test article (e.g. life threatening situation, no standard acceptable treatment available, and not sufficient time to obtain IRB approval);
 - Copy of the informed consent form;
 - Completed General Information Sheet (GIS), if possible, but the IRB Chair may accept it post administration. The PI must include the words "EMERGENCY USE" and the name of the test article in the title listed in the GIS.

2. If the PI proposes to administer the test article in emergency use situations without informed consent, the request to the IRB Chair should include a statement certifying in writing that all of the conditions listed in 21 CFR 50.23 are met. These conditions are as follows:
 - The subject is confronted by a life-threatening situation necessitating the use of the test article;
 - Informed consent cannot be obtained because of an inability to communicate with or obtain legally effective consent from the subject;
 - Time is insufficient to obtain consent from the subject's legal representative; and
 - There is no alternative method of approved or generally recognized therapy available that will provide an equal or greater likelihood of saving the subject's life.

If possible, this statement should include evaluation by a physician who is not participating in the clinical investigation. If emergency use involves a VA subject, the independent

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written evaluation should be performed by the VA Chief of Staff or another VA physician who is not participating in the clinical investigation. However, if the immediate use of the test article without informed consent is, in the investigator's opinion, required to preserve the life of the subject and time is not sufficient to obtain the independent determination by nonparticipating physician then the independent evaluation must be included in writing in the five working days report described below.

3. If the IRB Chair is not available, the PI should submit the information listed in item 1 and if applicable, item 2, to the ORI.
4. In the event that a PI submits an emergency use request to the ORI, ORI staff forward the materials to the IRB Chair, Vice Chair, or physician member, as available. If emergency use involves a VA subject, ORI staff forward materials to the IRB Chair, Vice Chair or a VA physician member, as available.
5. The IRB Chair, Vice Chair, physician member, or VA physician member assesses the request to determine whether it meets the regulatory requirements for emergency use and responds to the PI in writing. The IRB Chair, Vice Chair, or physician may determine the PI can proceed or may withhold confirmation. (See Emergency Use Checklist: Guidance for IRB Chair, Vice Chair, or Physician Member.)
6. The IRB Chair, Vice Chair, physician member, or VA physician member forwards the request and his/her response to the ORI. ORI staff process the request using expedited review procedures. (See Expedited Review SOP.)
7. Within five working days of the emergency use, the PI must submit a report to the IRB and, if applicable, the R & D regarding the emergency use of the test article. That report is to include:
 - A brief description of the life-threatening situation;
 - Justification for use of the test article;
 - Signed consent form or justification for administration without informed consent;
 - Statement of review and evaluation of the situation by a physician (VA physician, if applicable) who is not participating in the clinical investigation (if administered without informed consent);
 - Completed General Information Sheet (unless supplied earlier); and
 - A description of outcome of administration.
8. At a convened IRB meeting, ORI staff inform the IRB that the IRB Chair, Vice Chair, physician member, or VA physician member has assessed a request for emergency use using the regulatory definition, and the committee verifies the following criteria for emergency use:

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- The subject was confronted by a life-threatening situation necessitating the use of the investigational drug, biologic, or device;
- No alternative method of approved or generally recognized therapy was available that provides an equal or greater likelihood of saving the subject's life; and
- Time was not sufficient to obtain IRB approval.

9. If emergency use involves a VA subject, the PI is responsible for forwarding a copy of the IRB review findings to the R & D committee.

If an investigator fails to submit a request involving emergency use of an investigational test article to the IRB for review and confirmation prior to initiation, the IRB (and R & D for VA subjects) retrospectively reviews the situation to determine if the test article administration met the regulatory definition and whether failure to comply with this SOP meets the IRB definition of noncompliance. (See the Noncompliance SOP.)

REFERENCES

- 21 CFR 56.102(d)
- 21 CFR 56.104(c)
- 21 CFR 50.23
- 21 CFR 312.36