Inclusion of Women and Children in Research

Policy/Procedure

PURPOSE:
In order to meet the requirements of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy to include women, minorities, and children in all NIH-funded clinical research, Dickinson College’s Institutional Review Board requires that project proposals which are or hope to be supported by NIH funding include a plan to include women, members of minority groups, and children in the research project or a scientific and ethical rationale explaining why they should be excluded. A brief description of the NIH policies is provided below. Please follow the links provided for more detail about the NIH policy.

POLICY:

1. Inclusion of Women and Minorities as Subjects in Clinical Research
   It is the policy of NIH that women and members of minority groups and their subpopulations must be included in all NIH-funded clinical research, unless a clear and compelling rationale and justification establishes to the satisfaction of the relevant Institute/Center Director that inclusion is inappropriate with respect to the health of the subjects or the purpose of the research. Exclusion under other circumstances may be made by the Director, NIH, upon the recommendation of an Institute/Center Director based on a compelling rationale and justification. Cost is not an acceptable reason for exclusion except when the study would duplicate data from other sources. Women of childbearing potential should not be routinely excluded from participation in clinical research. This policy applies to research subjects of all ages in all NIH-supported clinical research studies.

   The inclusion of women and members of minority groups and their subpopulations must be addressed in developing a research design or contract proposal appropriate to the scientific objectives of the study/contract. The research plan/proposal should describe the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender and racial/ethnic group, and provide a rationale for selection of such subjects. Such a plan/proposal should contain a description of the proposed outreach programs for recruiting women and minorities as participants.


2. Inclusion of Children in Human Subjects Research
   It is the policy of NIH that children (i.e., individuals under the age of 21) must be included in all human subjects research, conducted or supported by the NIH, unless there are scientific and ethical reasons not to include them. This policy applies to all NIH conducted or supported research involving human subjects, including research that is otherwise "exempt" in accord with Sections 101(b) and 401(b) of 45 CFR 46 - Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects. The inclusion of children as
subjects in research must be in compliance with all applicable subparts of 45 CFR 46 as well as with other pertinent federal laws and regulations. Therefore, proposals for research involving human subjects must include a description of plans for including children. If children will be excluded from the research, the application or proposal must present an acceptable justification for the exclusion.

In the research plan, the investigator should create a section titled "Participation of Children". This section should provide either a description of the plans to include children and a rationale for selecting or excluding a specific age range of child, or an explanation of the reason(s) for excluding children as participants in the research. When children are included, the plan must also include a description of the expertise of the investigative team for dealing with children at the ages included, of the appropriateness of the available facilities to accommodate the children, and the inclusion of a sufficient number of children to contribute to a meaningful analysis relative to the purpose of the study. Scientific review groups at the NIH will assess each application as being "acceptable" or "unacceptable" in regard to the age-appropriate inclusion or exclusion of children in the research project, in addition to evaluating the plans for conducting the research in accord with these provisions.


Related Information

History/Revision Information

Responsible Division/Office: Academic Affairs, Sponsored Projects

Effective Date: February 10, 2006

Last Amended Date:

Next Review Date:

Also Found In: