



# Your Roadmap to Single IRB Review

## **Responsibilities of Relying Institutions**

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# Presentation Goals

Provide a brief overview of the SMART IRB Program

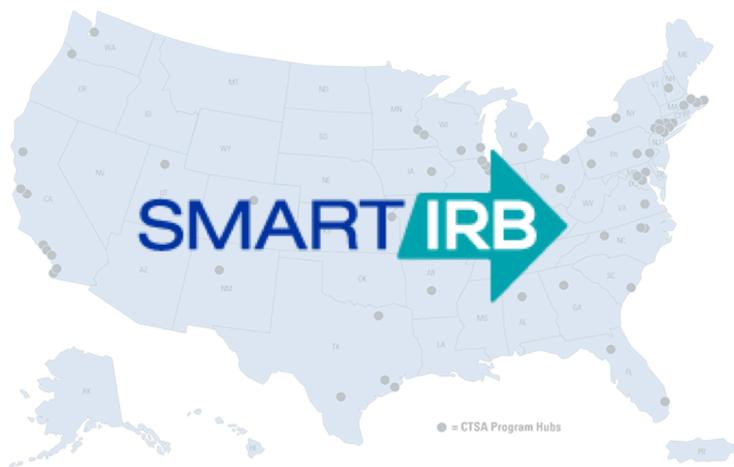
Describe the responsibilities under the SMART IRB Master Agreement of Relying Institutions

Discuss the impact of single IRB review on institutional policies & processes

# SMART IRB OVERVIEW



# Advancing research together



## A Roadmap to Single IRB Review

**Funded by NCATS** beginning in July 2016

As of July 2018, led by Harvard University and University of Wisconsin-Madison, along with a team of Ambassadors from across the U.S.

### GROW

A national IRB  
reliance network

### SUPPORT

Use of SMART IRB

### EDUCATE & TRAIN

Institutions &  
Investigators

### HARMONIZE

sIRB review  
processes across  
the nation

# Supporting single IRB review



## Informatics

### SMARTIRB.org

Resources and supportive services freely available to support sIRB review

### Joinder platform

Allows institutions to join the SMART IRB Agreement

### Online Reliance System

Provides a central system and process to request, track, and document reliance arrangements for each study



## SMART IRB Agreement

### Single IRB Authorization Agreement

Sign once and implement



## SOPs

### Clear roles and responsibilities for investigators and institutions

Flexibility to use other SOPs as agreed upon or required



## Expertise Across the Nation

### Ambassadors

Help institutions join and implement SMART IRB

### Education & Training

Tools, templates, FAQs, checklists, guidance, peer consultations, and webinars support adoption of SMART IRB

### Harmonization

### Steering Committee

Leaders in the field promote best practice

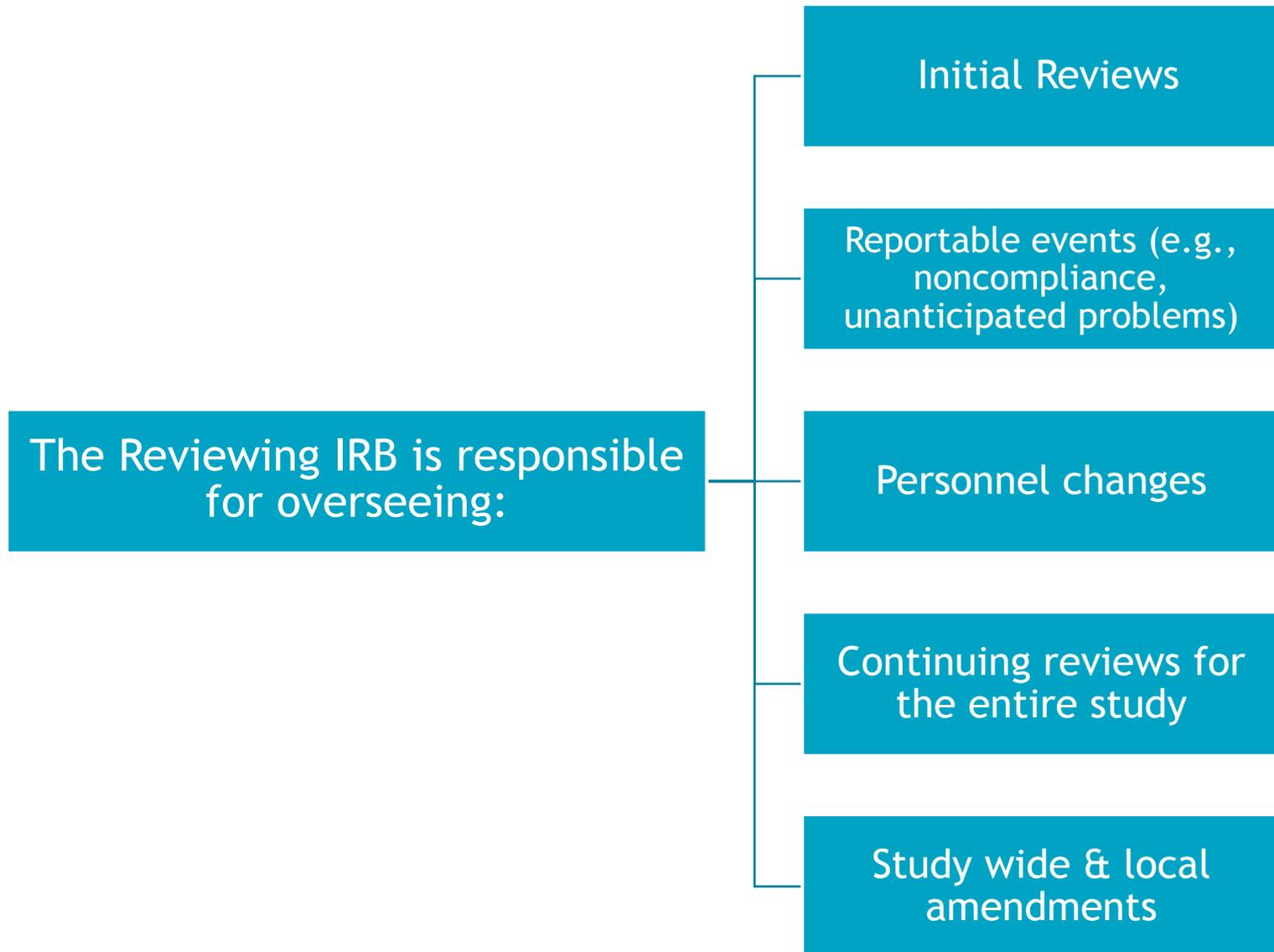
# Nature of the SMART IRB Agreement

The Agreement is a “master” agreement which means:

No additional IRB authorization agreements required to enable reliance among institutions that have joined SMART IRB

Reliance arrangements, however, need to be documented for each study

# Nature of the SMART IRB Model



# Eligibility to Join SMART IRB

Institution has a  
Federalwide  
Assurance

Institution provides  
oversight of all  
research, including  
exempt and not  
federally funded

If the institution is  
or has an IRB, must  
have initiated or  
completed an  
evaluation of the  
quality assurance of  
its human research  
protection program  
(HRPP) within past 5  
years of joining the  
agreement

Institution must  
assign a Point of  
Contact (POC)

# Responsibilities of All Institutions that Join

Maintain, implement, or have access to a human subjects research QA/QI process/function/program/service that can conduct and report to the Participating Institution the results of for-cause and not-for-cause audits

**UNLESS** the Reviewing IRB waives this requirement

Maintain sufficient insurance coverage (includes self-funded liability coverage in the case of state institutions) to cover their activities related to the reliance arrangement

**UNLESS** the Reviewing IRB waives this requirement

SMART IRB MASTER  
AGREEMENT:  
RELYING  
INSTITUTION  
RESPONSIBILITIES



# Ensuring Study Teams:

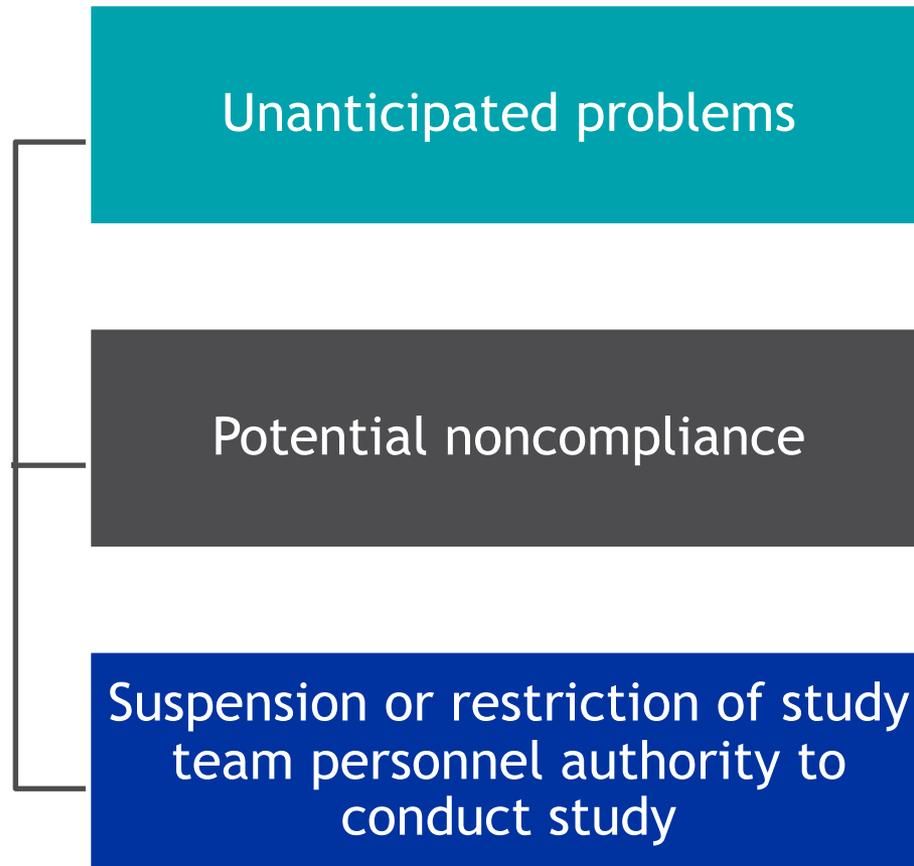
Do not initiate any study or changes of protocol\* without approval from the Reviewing IRB

(\*except those to eliminate an apparent immediate hazard)

Provide the Reviewing IRB with information about local study conduct for continuing review

Maintain research records (e.g., consent forms, HIPAA authorization)

# Ensuring Study Teams Notify the Reviewing IRB of:



# Research Personnel

Provide information or documentation to a Reviewing IRB regarding:

its research personnel's education, training, and qualifications as requested

# Institutional Communication with the Reviewing IRB

Local context that would affect the conduct or approval of the research at the Relying Institution, such as:

State and local laws & regulations

Institutional policies

Local factors

Ancillary reviews

# Consent Documents

Providing site-specific information in the customizable sections of the Reviewing IRB's consent form, such as:

- Compensation for injury language
- Variations in costs
- Local contact information

# Conflicts of Interest (COI)

Maintain & share  
COI policies

Perform COI analysis  
(unless alternate  
arrangement agreed  
upon with Reviewing  
IRB)

Communicate COI  
determinations  
(e.g., management  
plans, restrictions)  
to the Reviewing IRB

Abide by Reviewing  
IRB COI  
determinations

# HIPAA Privacy Rule

Work with Reviewing IRB to establish whether a separate HIPAA authorization form or combined consent/authorization will be used for the research

Provide any language specific to the Relying Institution to the Reviewing IRB

Notify the Reviewing IRB of any specific local requirements and restrictions on use and disclosure of protected health information (PHI) that could prevent the Reviewing IRB from approving a request for waiver of HIPAA authorization for the Relying Institution

# If a separate HIPAA authorization form will be used, the Relying Institution will ensure:

The accuracy of the information within the form



Compliance of the form with the HIPAA Privacy Rule



That the form permits PHI to be used by and disclosed to the Reviewing IRB, the Reviewing IRB Institution, and all Relying Institutions as necessary for conducting, reviewing and overseeing the Research (including investigation and evaluation of events)

# Injury Coverage

Ensuring the provisions of any applicable grant or contract that address financial coverage for research-related injuries in connection with research:

Are consistent with the approved research protocol and consent form

OR

That the approved research protocol and consent form, if more protective of human subjects, will control

# Complaints

The Relying  
Institution  
must have

an institutional mechanism by which complaints about the research can be made by local research participants or others to a local contact

# Cooperates When the Reviewing IRB or Reviewing Institution Requests an Audit

Provide research records and related information

Meet with representatives from the Reviewing IRB/ Reviewing IRB institution

Help to carry out corrective action(s), as applicable

Report its findings to the Reviewing IRB/ Reviewing IRB Institution within a reasonable timeframe in the case of its own or a joint investigation

Comply with all corrective actions required by the Reviewing IRB/ Reviewing IRB Institution

# Reporting to Regulatory Agencies

Promptly providing any comments on any draft report from the Reviewing IRB/Reviewing Institution



If the Reviewing IRB/Reviewing IRB Institution requests the Relying Institution make the report, promptly prepare the draft report and provide the Reviewing IRB/Reviewing IRB Institution with the opportunity to review and comment on the draft report



If the Relying Institution elects to make its own additional report, provides a copy to the Reviewing IRB/Reviewing IRB Institution



Promptly notify the Reviewing IRB/Reviewing IRB Institution of communications received from FDA, OHRP, and/or other regulatory agencies related to any reporting

# IMPACT OF SINGLE IRB REVIEW ON RELYING INSTITUTIONS



# Impact on Reliance Policy

Institutional policy for ceding review or serving as reviewing IRB should identify:

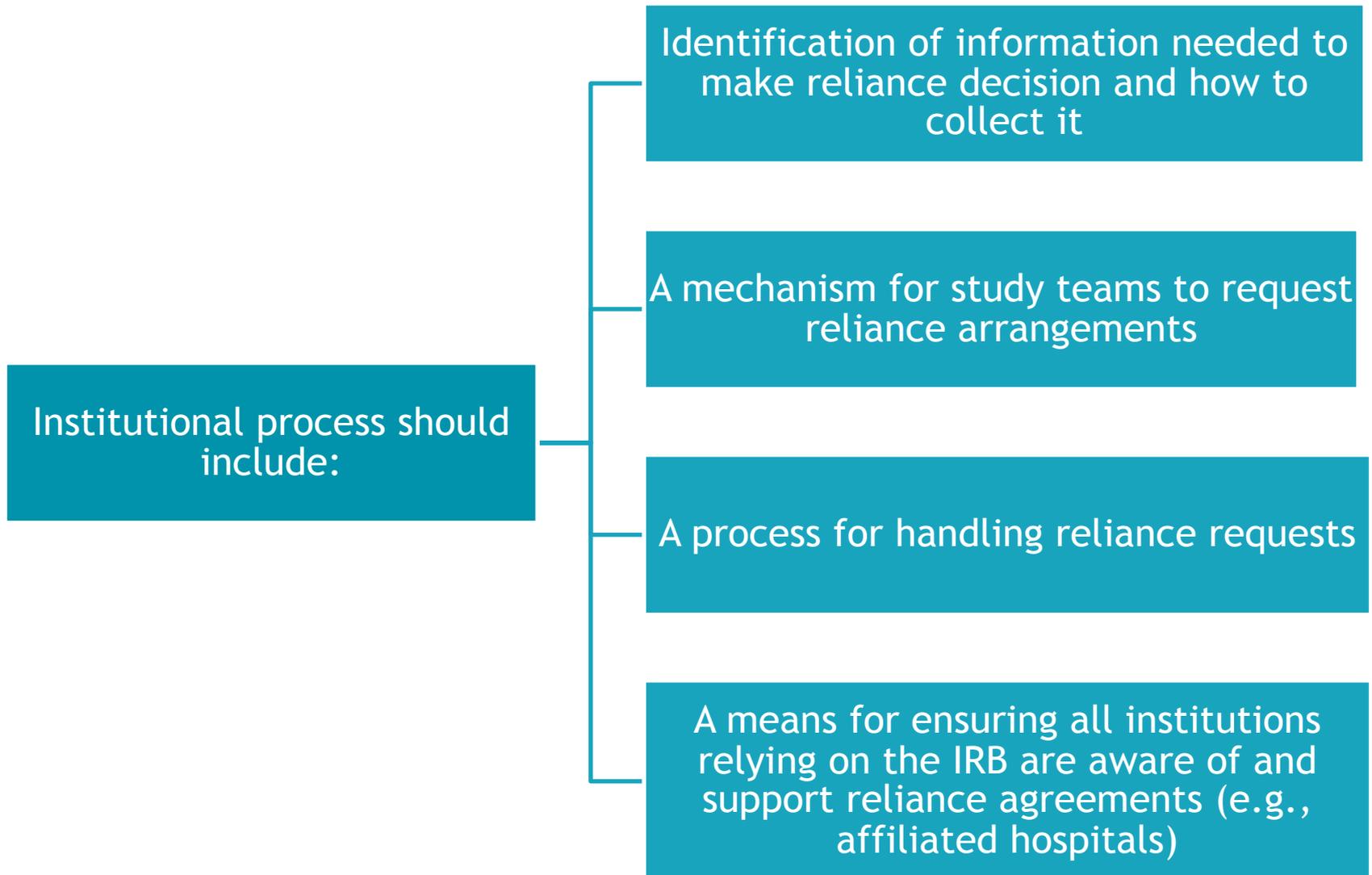
**WHO**

can make reliance determinations

**WHAT**

research qualifies for reliant review

# Impact on Reliance Process



# One Solution: The SMART IRB Online Reliance System

Provides investigators and institutions a centralized workflow to initiate, document, and track reliance arrangements

Standardizes the information collected to assess whether a study is eligible for a reliance arrangement

Connects institutions with the appropriate point of contact (POC) for each institution involved in the reliance request

Built-in Flexibilities: Add sites by amendment; customize institution contact information; designate multiple POCs within institution; send reminders; pull reports on-demand

# Local HRPP Infrastructure Needs Related to Reliance

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A means for ensuring compliance with the terms of the IRB authorization agreement

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A mechanism to ensure non-IRB institutional requirements are met, such as ancillary reviews, clinicaltrials.gov registration and updates, congruency of contract/consent injury language, coverage analysis

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Training for study teams to understand the implications of single IRB review, including responsibilities when research ceded to an external IRB

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Ability to track ceded research to allow the institution to appropriately oversee its research portfolio

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Addressing IRB fees, if the external IRB charges or if serving as a Reviewing IRB under the NIH Single IRB Policy

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Communicating reliance arrangements to grants/contracts and post-approval monitoring personnel

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Addressing situations when the Reviewing IRB will not serve as a Privacy Board or a separate authorization form required

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If you need help:  
email  
[help@smartirb.org](mailto:help@smartirb.org)



# Access SMART IRB Resources at [smartirb.org](https://smartirb.org)

## Expertise and Guidance



Connect with an ambassador or request a peer consultation

## Support for Single IRB Review



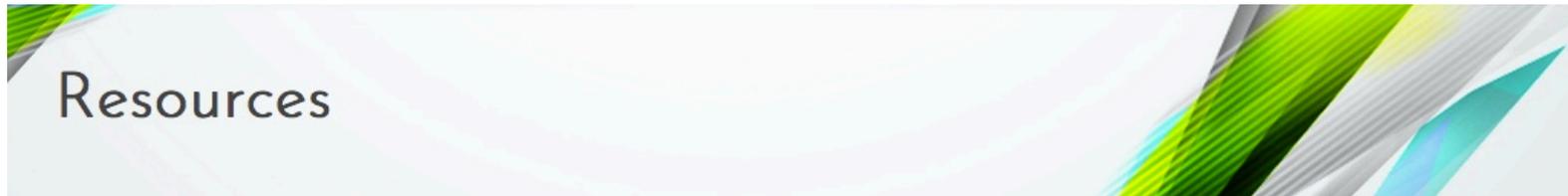
Access a growing library of FAQs, SOPs, templates, checklists, and guidance

## Online Reliance System



Request, track, and document reliance arrangements on a study-by-study basis

# SMART IRB Resources Page: [smartirb.org/resources](https://smartirb.org/resources)



All Resources   Browse by Topic   **Browse by Role**   Browse by Source

Study Teams   Reviewing IRBs   **Relying Institutions**   IRB/HRPP Staff

Relying Institutions	Source
<a href="#">Consent Template Requirements (when using an external IRB) – SAMPLE</a> ⓘ This document provides an example of step-by-step guidance to revise informed consent form templates when relying on an external IRB.	University of Pennsylvania
<a href="#">FAQs for Research Teams - Relying on an External IRB (Word Template)</a> ⓘ Institutions may use this template to create guidance for study teams whose research study is ceded to an external IRB.	SMART IRB
<a href="#">Informed Consent Documents: Inserting Local Context Language</a> ⓘ This guidance describes the different roles that may be involved in inserting local context language in informed consent documents.	SMART IRB
<a href="#">Online Reliance System</a> Helps investigators and institutions request, track, and document reliance arrangements for each study.	SMART IRB
<a href="#">Online Reliance System: Sample Reliance Request Form</a> ⓘ	SMART IRB
<a href="#">Online Reliance System: Support Center</a>	SMART IRB
<a href="#">Online Reliance System Terms of Use and Privacy Policy</a>	SMART IRB
<a href="#">Webinar: Responsibilities of Relying Institutions</a> ⓘ Guidance for institutions preparing to serve as a Relying Institution under the SMART IRB Agreement. Check our homepage for upcoming webinars. <a href="#">View Slide Deck</a> ⓘ	SMART IRB

# Questions and Discussion