

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

FAQ Topic: The National Cancer Institute's Central IRB (NCI CIRB)

Date: March 26, 2012

Question: Can a VA facility obtain a waiver from the CRADO to designate the National Cancer Institute's Central IRB (NCI CIRB) as an IRB of record?

Answer: No. VHA Handbook 1200.05 Subparagraph 5e(1) states "Under exceptional circumstances, a VA facility may request a waiver from the CRADO to utilize the services of an IRB operated by another Federal department or agency that is signatory to the Common Rule." At present, however, such waivers will not be approved for designation of the NCI CIRB as an IRB of Record for a VA Facility. (Original Post Date: March 26, 2012)

Question: Can a research study be conducted at a VA facility if the VA facility's affiliate IRB delegated review of the study to the NCI CIRB?

Answer: No. All IRBs that review studies for a VA facility must be listed on the VA Facility's Federalwide Assurance (FWA) and, at present, waiver requests will not be approved to designate the National Cancer Institute's Central IRB (NCI CIRB) on a VA Facility's FWA (see Question 1). However, the research study can be conducted at a VA Facility if an IRB listed on its FWA (e.g., its local IRB, the IRB of another VA facility, or its affiliate IRB) reviews and approves the study (i.e., without delegating the review to the NCI CIRB).