Where to Apply - Human Health Research Ethics Approval in Alberta

Research involving human participants and their health information (diagnostic, treatment and care information) must receive ethics approval from a Health Information Act-designated Research Ethics Board (HIA-designated REB) (under Part 5, Division 3 of the HIA) prior to initiating the research.

Health Research Ethics Board of Alberta (HREBA)	Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (CHREB)	Health Research Ethics Board (HREB)
Cancer Committee (HREBA-CC) cancer@hreba.ca The Cancer Committee reviews all protocols: i. focused on the study of cancer or cancer-related research involving humans; and ii. conducted by Principal Investigators from the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services (AHS), Covenant Health and/or the community. **Clinical Trials Committee (HREBA-CTC)** clinicaltrials@hreba.ca The Clinical Trials Committee reviews: i. clinical trials conducted by physicians and other qualified health professionals outside of their employment with the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, Covenant Health or AHS (Central Zone, Calgary and South Zone). HREBA-CTC does not review cancer-related studies.	CHREB reviews all human participant health research where the Principal Investigator is conducting the research: i. as an employee of the University of Calgary holding an academic appointment (Continuing, Limited Term, Contingent Term or Sessional); or ii. as an employee of the University of Calgary not holding an academic appointment but required to initiate and perform research in accordance with their conditions of employment; or iii. as a non-employee of the University holding a clinical or adjunct appointment, including AHS employees with an appointment with the University of Calgary. CHREB does not review cancer-related studies. **Email:** chreb@ucalgary.ca	HREB reviews all human participant health research where the Principal Investigator is conducting the research: i. as a Faculty member/employee of the University of Alberta; or ii. as a student of the University of Alberta; or iii. as an AHS employee, or using AHS resources or facilities, and they have an appointment with the University of Alberta; or iv. as an AHS employee, or using AHS resources or facilities, and they do not have an appointment or affiliation with either the University of Alberta or the University of Calgary; or v. as a Covenant Health employee in Alberta or using Covenant Health resources or facilities; or vi. as a Faculty member, employee or student of the University of Lethbridge. HREB does not review cancer-related studies. **Email:** reoffice@ualberta.ca

Health Research Ethics Board of Alberta (HREBA)	Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (CHREB)	Health Research Ethics Board (HREB)
Community Health Committee (HREBA-CHC) communityhealth@hreba.ca The Community Health Committee reviews: i. health studies conducted by Principal Investigators outside of their employment with the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, Covenant Health or AHS (Central Zone, Calgary and South Zone). HREBA-CHC does not review cancer-related studies or clinical trials.		

Cancer-related Studies means studies primarily focused on **the study of cancer or treatment of cancer patients;** this includes, but is not limited to:

1. Clinical trials in patients with a cancer diagnosis;
2. Studies evaluating, assessing or describing the clinical care (including palliative and psychosocial well-being) and management of patients with cancer;
3. Studies where the participants are identified/recruited using cancer registries or bio-repositories in Alberta or elsewhere;
4. Studies seeking to draw samples or data for secondary use from established cancer data or bio-repositories

Consultation Process - for cases where it is unclear to which REB an applicant should apply:

1. All three Research Ethics Offices (REO), when they receive a misdirected application, will advise applicants to which REB they must submit an application, on a case by case basis, thereby avoiding the provision of conflicting advice or the need for researchers to resubmit an application initially entered on the incorrect platform (IRISS or ARISE);
2. The receiving REB that originally received the misdirected application shall be considered to be the appropriate REB for that particular application, and its determinations shall be accepted by the other boards pursuant to the terms of the reciprocity agreement. Any outstanding concerns will be discussed as set out below:
    a. These discussions will focus on “what is possible” and “what is reasonable” at the REO level, in consultation with appropriate Chairs, as needed
    b. A record of decisions will be kept for future guidance and reference

Important Note - the role of a REB with respect to personal health information access is to determine whether or not participant consent is required. The release of records must be negotiated with the custodian (AHS, Covenant Health) and executed in a research agreement. In addition, research ethics approval does not encompass any operational approval such as authorization to access patients, staff or resources of AHS, Covenant Health or other institutions.