

St George's Research Ethics Committee (SGREC)

Terms of Reference

The original Terms of Reference were approved by the SGREC committee at a meeting in December 2015. The adopted Terms of Reference are listed below.

The St George's Research Ethics Committee can:

1. Review research projects requiring favourable ethics opinion and sponsor's governance approval or which involve security-sensitive research to be carried out by University staff, or students under the supervision of University staff, including projects being undertaken overseas, unless:

- They fall under the remit of the Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees (<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/policies-standards-legislation/governance-arrangement-research-ethics-committees/>)
- They involve animal subjects.

2. Following review:

- Favourable opinion: the project has favourable ethics opinion and may begin. No additional conditions are imposed on the research, apart from those standard ones listed in the letter
- Favourable opinion with additional conditions: the project has favourable ethics opinion to subject but additional conditions imposed by the Committee. These conditions must be met (and in most cases, evidence of them being met submitted to the Committee) prior to the start of the project.
- Unfavourable opinion (rejection, with option to resubmit with revision)

3. Demand or initiate another review at any point in the life of a project previously accepted by the Committee, and revoke the favourable ethics opinion if necessary, in circumstances where:

- There have been relevant or material changes to the personnel or the protocol
- Concerns have arisen (e.g. via research misconduct procedure or whistleblowing) about the conduct of the researchers or of the research
- Incidents of concern have been reported to the Committee
- More than 5 years have passed since the last ethics favourable opinion given, unless satisfactory annual progress reports (APRs) have been submitted

Serious concerns identified by the Committee with regards to research compliance or adverse events will be reported to the approving University's Research Committee and they will provide advice on corrective actions.

4. Establish, implement, and keep under review the codes of practice, procedures and policy guidelines for the consideration, approval, and monitoring of research projects, including adherence to the International Conference on Harmonisation's Good Clinical Practice (ICH GCP) guidelines.

5. The SGREC can review and comment on the ethical issues in a project with respect to health and safety of potential participants and researchers; however investigators should seek consultation from the University's Safety, Health and Environment office with regards to health and safety issues in a project, especially if the project will be conducted overseas.

6. Review the Terms of Reference annually.