



Continuing Ethics Review

Research is subject to continuing research ethics review from the date of initial REB approval throughout the course of the project. The type of continuing ethics review required (e.g., full board review or delegated review) depends on the level of risk of the research, which may change over the life of the project (TCPS 2, 2014, Article 6.14).

For research projects lasting longer than one year, researchers shall submit, at minimum, an annual report to the REB. This report should contain enough information that the REB will be able to make an informed judgment about the continued ethical acceptability of the research. The report will be due one year from the date of the initial final approval letter from the REB.

For research projects lasting less than one year, a Study Completion report must be submitted to the REB.

Responsibility for Continuing Ethics Review

Continuing ethics review is a collective responsibility (TCPS 2, 2014, Article 6.14):

- Institutions have a responsibility to provide the necessary resources to REBs so that they can fulfill their continuing ethics review responsibilities;
- REBs must make decisions about the nature and frequency of continuing ethics review (may depend on the level of risk in the proposed project);
- Researchers must continually monitor their research to ensure that it is conducted in an ethical manner, report any unanticipated issues (TCPS 2, 2014, Article 6.15), report any changes to the research (TCPS 2, 2014, Article 6.16), and ensure all team members are properly trained in the conduct of ethical research. They must submit the appropriate forms to the REB to ensure their compliance with BVC Policy and the TCPS 2 (2014).

If the REB does not approve continuing ethics review after a year, research ethics approval will end. Any research carried out after this time will be considered to be unapproved. These cases will be referred to the Vice President, Learning for resolution.

For more information on continuing ethics review, please see:

- Tri-Council Policy Statement 2 (2014):
http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/pdf/eng/tcps2-2014/TCPS_2_FINAL_Web.pdf