



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™  
EL PASO

Office of Research

**TTUHSC EI PASO**

# Regulatory Lite



**A hint of research compliance tips for your everyday life**

## Reciprocity Agreements and Reliance IRBs

Are you my Primary Institutional Review Board (IRB)?

A reliance agreement, also known as “reciprocity” agreement, is a formal and written document that provides a mechanism for an institution engaged in research to delegate IRB review to an external IRB by documenting the respective authorities, roles, responsibilities, and communication between participating sites. In other words, our local IRB is “relying” on the IRB review of another organization or may serve as the IRB for another organization under a written IRB authorization agreement. The purpose of using a Reliance IRB is to help reduce the administrative burden and complexity of multi-site research on a single IRB.

This requirement applies primarily to TTUHSC Principal Investigators (PIs) who receive federal funding to conduct the same protocol involving non-exempt human subjects research at multiple sites in the U.S.

There are different processes to obtain External IRB approval. The process will depend on whether the TTUHSC PI is the Primary Awardee for a federally funded multi-site research project, or if the TTUHSC PI is beginning a collaborative role on an existing or federally funded sub-award research project where the single IRB of record has already been determined. For additional information on these processes, please refer to the following page: <https://el Paso.ttuhs c.edu/research/committees/irb/resources/reciprocity-agreements.aspx>

*Keep in mind* that the use of an external IRB does not exempt TTUHSC from human research activity oversight. TTUHSC remains accountable for the conduct of human research by TTUHSC personnel, and the study team is still required to comply with both TTUHSC research policies and external IRB policies. Because of this, specific training and education requirements, iRIS accounts and regulatory submissions through iRIS are still required.

*Remember that TTUHSC written IRB approval is required prior to initiating research activities at the local site(s) and prior to initiating amendment changes at the local site.*

For assistance, please reach out to:

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If you have any additional questions, feel free to reach out to your [Research Compliance Unit](#).

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