WHAT IS THE LIFE HEALTHCARE HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE?

The Life Healthcare Health Research Ethics Committee **(hereafter referred to the HREC)** is registered and functions under the auspices of the National Health Research Ethics Council of South Africa

Registration and accreditation details are:
- Registration number: REC-251015-048
- Accreditation validity till 30 November 2027

The roles and responsibilities of the Life Healthcare HREC is to:

- Review and approve all research proposal applications and amendments for ethical and scientific rigor
- Monitor and manage adverse events and incidents that may arise from approved research
- Monitor ongoing research to ensure adherence to the approved study and legal requirements
- Conduct ethics reviews of health-related research proposals to ensure the welfare, interests and protection of participants, researchers involved in the research and Life Healthcare is maintained
- To ensure that research follows the required ethical norms and standards

Does my study require Life Healthcare HREC approval?

In compliance with the NHREC and the National Health Act 61 of 2003, all health and health-related research involving human participants, human biological materials, patient records or identifiable information must undergo independent ethics review before any research activities commence within a Life Healthcare facility.

Life Healthcare HREC review is generally required where research involves:

- Life Healthcare patients, patient information or patient records.
- Life Healthcare employees as research participants.
- Human biological materials (e.g. blood, tissue, DNA or other specimens).
- Recruitment of participants through Life Healthcare facilities, staff or communication channels.
- Access to Life Healthcare facilities, clinical environments or operational areas.
- Organisational, operational or business data generated within Life Healthcare.
- Clinical trials, observational studies, surveys, interviews, audits or quality improvement projects intended for publication or degree purposes.

Studies involving Life Healthcare employees, organisational systems, business processes, operational data or departmental activities may require support in principle from the relevant Hospital Manager, Department Head and/or Business Unit Leader prior to HREC review.

Additional Requirements for Studies Involving Human Biological Material

Studies involving the collection, use, storage, transfer or analysis of human biological material, including blood, tissue, DNA, pathology samples, genetic material or other human specimens, may require additional review and supporting documentation.

2027 Meeting Dates

Submission	HREC Meeting	Feedback
01 February	23 February	05 March
08 March	30 March	09 April
06 April	29 April	09 May
03 May	25 May	04 June
07 June	29 June	09 July
05 July	27 July	06 August
09 August	31 August	10 September
06 September	28 September	08 October
04 October	26 October	05 November
08 November	30 November	10 December

* Meeting scheduled on 29 April 2027 due to the Easter and public holiday period.

How do I submit my application for research approval?

Submit all applications for ethics approval and permission to conduct research Research@lifehealthcare.co.za

The following documents are required:

1. HREC application and risk assessment form (LCL-Form-REC-002)
2. Full protocol with supporting documentation inclusive of:
   - Draft letters gatekeeper and institutional permissions
   - Permission request access to material, information, or property (if applicable)
   - Data collection instruments
   - Recruitment and enrollment information (written and or oral)
   - Informed consent forms
3. Non-disclosure agreements (if applicable)
4. Ethics approval
   - Institutional ethics approval
   - Pharma-Ethics (if applicable)
   - SAHPRA approval (if applicable)
   - Proof of ethics training
5. Evidence of expertise
   - CV of researcher and co–investigators (or supervisors)

All documents are accessible at
https://www.lifehealthcare.co.za/careers/education-and-training/research-and-human-research-ethics-committee/

Life HEALTH CARE

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