How long will it take to get IRB approval?

Tell Me

The IRB review and approval process may take two (2) weeks to several weeks depending on the level/category of IRB review required, the complexity of the proposed study, the group or population (e.g. children or adults) being studied, the completeness of application materials, etc.

1. The average review times for the level/category of review required:
   a. Exempt = 2-3 weeks
   b. Expedited = 4-6 weeks
   c. Full = 1 month or more
   i. NOTE: The Full IRB meets only once a month. Investigators planning research that requires Full Board review should plan accordingly and review the Full Board meeting deadlines

Be aware that these review times are average times and the review may take longer depending on how quickly investigators work with the IRB and Compliance Office to resolve questions and review comments. In addition, the number of protocols being reviewed tends to increase around mid-semester until the end of each semester. Thus review times are often longer. Investigators are asked to carefully consider their research schedule and allow adequate time for IRB review. Human subjects research may not begin until IRB approval is obtained.

Related Articles

- How do I submit my IRB protocol application & supporting materials?
- How do I make changes to my IRB approved study?
- Does my research activity require review by the Institutional Review Board (IRB)?
- How do I close my IRB Protocol?