



## Ethics Policy for Research Projects

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### Policy

It is the policy of CommuniCare Therapy to complete an ethical review for all research projects.

CommuniCare Therapy recognizes the importance of thoroughly considering all aspects and impacts of potential research projects on patients, the organization, contracting partners and the community within which services are provided and/or the research is completed.

It is CommuniCare Therapy's policy to:

- Submit all requests for CommuniCare to participate in a research project to the Ethics Committee for review
- Have available an Ethics Consultant external to the organization (as needed)
- Consult with Professional Regulatory Colleges and refer to individual Codes of Ethics for guidance
- Seek approval and consent from our contracting partners (HCCSS, CHEO) should their patients be involved or affected by the research project
- Ensure all research activities align with and adhere to HCCSS and/or CHEO research policies & procedures
- Ensure that all research projects engaged in by CommuniCare:
  - will allow no harm/detriment to a patient.
  - Will not disrupt the patient-clinician therapeutic relationship.
  - Will only be considered if the purpose is to improve therapeutic outcomes for the population of patients served.
- Make available and share (as appropriate) all details of a project's ethics review.

### Procedure

CommuniCare has in place an Ethics Committee and Decision-Making Framework for ethical issues. Evaluation of the ethical component associated with a research proposal is necessary to ensure appropriateness of a project and to ensure all risks and benefits have been identified and considered.

The procedure for an ethics review for a research proposal submitted to CommuniCare Therapy includes the following:

- Submit all research proposals to the Executive Director for presentation to the Ethics Committee
- The Ethics Committee would be called to meet as soon as could be arranged with committee members.
- Ethics Committee will read the proposal and identify potential issues/considerations that include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Consent from contracting partners, community partners, patients & family/caregivers
  - Patient impact
  - Risk to patient care and/or therapeutic relationship
  - Benefit of research project to the patient, best practice, the organization, the community
  - The need for outside consultation with an expert in Ethics
  - Conflict with current contracts/partnerships
- The Professional Colleges' , CommuniCare's Codes of Ethics and current contract relationships would be considered in the review and evaluation of the research proposal.
- The Executive Director or designated CommuniCare Representative would contact the Ethics Consultant, community or contracting partners as needed.
- The Ethics Committee will provide a written summary of their findings and recommendations within one month of the proposal's submission.