**Human Subject Research Use and Disclosure of Protected Health Information**

1. **Purpose**

The Wright State University (WSU) Institutional Review Board (hereafter referred to as the “IRB”) is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (hereafter referred to as the “Privacy Rule”) when it acts as the privacy board for human subject research involving WSU’s or an external covered entity’s (e.g., Premier Health) protected health information (PHI).

The purpose of this policy is to define institutional and investigator Privacy Rule requirements for research involving human subjects, and the procedures the IRB will follow to ensure compliance with those regulatory requirements.

1. **Scope**

This policy applies to all exempt and non-exempt human subject research (HSR) under the purview of the IRB that involves WSU’s and/or, when applicable an external covered entity’s (e.g., Premier Health) protected health information.

It is important to note that many privacy board reviews conducted by the IRB involve non-WSU protected health information or PHI. Therefore, investigators must also take steps to identify and to be compliant with any and all applicable external Privacy Rule policies/procedures prior to commencing any HSR approved by the IRB.

For example, Dayton VA Medical Center HSR reviewed by the WSU IRB must comply with VA Handbook 1200.05 and 1605.01 privacy requirements and is not subject to parts of this policy that are not consistent with VA Handbooks and policies.

1. **Definitions**

**HIPAA/Privacy Rule** means the minimum Federal standards (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, specifically 45 CFR part 160 and subparts A and E of part 164) for safeguarding the privacy of individually identifiable health information. It includes the standards for an individual’s privacy rights in order to enable them to understand and control how their protected health information (PHI) is used. Within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is authorized to implement and enforce the Privacy Rule.

**Protected Health Information (PHI)** means individually identifiable health information, including demographic data that is collected from an individual, and meets all of the following criteria:

* + - is created or received by a health care provider, health care entity, health plan, public health authority, employer, life insurer, school/university, or health care clearing house; AND
    - relates to past, present or future physical or mental health or condition of the individual; or the provision of health care to an individual; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual; AND
    - identifies the individual or where there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual; AND
    - is transmitted or maintained in any form or medium, whether electronic, paper or oral (see 45 CFR 160.103).

**Covered Entity** means a health plan, a health care clearinghouse, or health care provider who transmits health information in electronic form. A covered entity is responsible for implementing Privacy Rule protections of PHI collected, generated, or stored under its auspices.

**Research** means a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge (45 CFR 164.501).

**Authorization** means permission to gain access to PHI. At WSU, authorization for use and disclosure of PHI for research purposes is normally provided when a human research subject signs an informed consent document that contains an authorization section. Template authorization language can be found in Attachment A of this policy.

**Workforce Member** means employees, volunteers, trainees, and other persons whose work performance is under the direct control of a covered entity (i.e., Miami Valley or Dayton Children’s), regardless of whether they are paid by the covered entity.

**Use** means to employ, apply, utilize, examine or analyze PHI maintained within the covered entity.

**Disclosure** means to share PHI with a person or organization outside the covered entity, unless the covered entity has designated a recipient as a “Business Associate.”

**Investigator** is any individual involved in the design, conduct and/or reporting of research.

**VPR (Vice President for Research) Designee** is the WSU official who is responsible for the development and implementation of the policies and procedures required to comply with the Privacy Rule as defined by the Code of Federal Regulations, 45 C.F.R. 160, 162 and 164. Contact information for the VPR Designee can be found via the following link: <http://www.wright.edu/research/compliance/hipaa/contact-information>.

1. **Policy**

HIPAA establishes the conditions under which PHI may be used and disclosed by investigators for research purposes. During the conduct of a research study, investigators may obtain, create, use, and/or disclose individually identifiable health information, which includes PHI. HIPAA permits investigators to use or disclose PHI for research only under the following circumstances and conditions:

* The subject has granted specific written permission through an authorization;
* There is documentation that the IRB or record has granted a waiver, partial waiver, or alteration of authorization requirements;
* The review of PHI is solely for purposes preparatory to research;
* The review of PHI involves only decedents’ information;
* The PHI is de-identified in accordance with HIPAA standards, in which case the health information is no longer considered PHI; or
* The PHI is released in the form of a limited data set, with an executed data use agreement including provisions for the use and disclosure of the limited data set as defined below.

To ensure regulatory compliance and patient privacy, the IRB expects all investigators to adhere to the requirements described in this policy.

1. **Procedures**
   1. Uses Preparatory to Research

An investigator may review PHI in medical records or elsewhere without subject authorization to prepare a research protocol (e.g., determining whether a sufficient number or type of records exists to conduct the research prior to IRB application) if the proposed research use meets all of the following provisions:

* + - The use or disclosure is sought solely to review PHI as necessary to prepare the research protocol or other similar preparatory purposes
    - No PHI will be removed from the covered entity during the review, and
    - The PHI that the investigator seeks to use or disclose is solely necessary for the research purpose.

Preparatory Activities Involving WSU PHI

To meet the preparatory to research requirements, an investigator must submit a “Use of PHI in Activities Preparatory to Research” form to the VPR Designee **prior** to the planned use. The fully executed form is WSU’s documentation that the use met the “Preparatory to Research” provision. Any investigator who obtains this certification must be able to provide evidence that the use met the three above criteria upon request of WSU Officials.

Preparatory Activities Involving Non-WSU PHI

Prior to the preparatory to research access/use of PHI, an investigator must contact the appropriate research or privacy office of the covered entity to determine and then complete the appropriate preparatory to research requirements for that covered entity.

Minimum Necessary Standard

It is important to understand that uses of PHI for research without authorization (i.e., preparatory to research and under an authorization waiver) are subject to the "minimum necessary" standard - that is, the uses/disclosures must be no more than the minimum required for the described research purpose. Therefore, the investigator must demonstrate that the PHI to be accessed or used is the minimum necessary for preparing the research protocol and/or identifying potential subjects.

Recording PHI needed to contact potential subjects to obtain their written authorization (i.e., recruitment) is not covered by the “Preparatory to Research” provision and must only occur after IRB approval of the study which is in accordance with DHHS and FDA regulations.

* 1. Subject Recruitment – Partial Waiver of Authorization

Investigators who meet the definition of a Workforce Member can record PHI and contact potential subjects for the purpose of seeking authorization for an IRB-approved study (e.g., WSU psychology professor conducting a study using records from the Ellis Institute or a Miami Valley research nurse utilizing Miami Valley medical records). However, Non-Workforce investigators and study teams that include Non-Workforce investigators (e.g., WSU psychology professor conducting study using Miami Valley medical records to obtain subject contact information) must obtain a partial waiver of authorization as part of overall study approval from the IRB before contacting potential subjects.

To obtain a partial waiver for recruitment, an investigator must provide sufficient information in the study application to meet the following three criteria:

* The use or disclosure of the PHI for screening/recruitment purposes involves no more than a minimal risk to the privacy of individuals, based on, at least, the presence of the following elements:
  + An adequate plan to protect PHI identifiers from improper use and disclosure
  + An adequate plan to destroy the identifiers at the earliest opportunity, consistent with the conduct of the research, unless there is a health or research justification for retaining the identifiers, or such retention is otherwise required by law, and
  + Adequate written assurances that the PHI will not be reused or disclosed to any other person or entity, except as required by law, for authorized oversight of the research study, or for other research for which the use or disclosure of the PHI is permitted by the Privacy Rule
* The screening/recruitment could not practicably be conducted without the waiver or alteration, and
* The screening/recruitment could not practicably be conducted without access to and use of the PHI.

Note that any subsequent use or disclosure of the same PHI requires written authorization or a separate waiver determination.

* 1. Written Authorization

Investigators are required to obtain written authorization from each human subject prior to the use or disclosure of the subject’s individual PHI for research purposes unless the IRB, in its Privacy Board role, has granted a waiver. The purpose of the authorization is to inform an individual how his/her PHI and research information (collected or created) is to be used; who the information will be shared with; and to inform the individual of the right to access information about them that is held by WSU and/or other covered entity.

All written authorizations must include certain elements and statements in order to be valid (45 CFR 164.508). A written authorization must include the following:

* A description of the PHI to be used or disclosed, identifying the information in a specific and meaningful manner (e.g., medication list, problem list). It is not acceptable to state “entire medical record” unless the entire medical record is required to perform the research
* The names or other specific identification of the person or persons (or class of persons) authorized to make the requested use or disclosure
* The names of individuals, organizations, companies, and/or class of individuals to whom WSU/covered entity officials and researchers (the covered entity) may disclose (share) the PHI, or who may use the subject’s PHI in relation to the research study
* A description of the purpose(s) of the requested use or disclosure
* A signature block for signing and dating of the authorization by the individual or the individual's legally authorized representative (Note: only one subject signature is required to provide both authorization and consent)
* The authorization expiration date or expiration event that relates to the individual or to the purpose of the use or disclosure
* A statement of the subject's right to revoke authorization and how to do so, and, if applicable, the exceptions to the right to revoke the authorization
* A statement explaining whether non-research treatment, payment, enrollment, or eligibility of benefits can be conditioned on authorization. In addition, the authorization must specify whether a subject can still participate in research study if they don’t provide authorization, and
* A statement of the potential risk that PHI will be re-disclosed and no longer protected by the Privacy Rule. This may be a general statement that the Privacy Rule may no longer protect health information disclosed to the entities described in the above bullet.

The authorization must be written in plain language and included within the research informed consent form. To do this in accordance with WSU requirements, a section entitled “Authorization to Use and Disclose Your Health Information” must be added as one of the last sections of the consent form, except for Dayton VA Medical Center studies because the VA Handbook requires a separate authorization document.

**Investigators must add study-specific information to the WSU authorization template language or the IRB-approved template language of the appropriate covered entity (e.g., Premier Health). Approved authorization templates can be found on the WSU IRB website at:** <https://www.wright.edu/research/compliance/human-subjects>**.**

FDA and DHHS regulations require that the IRB must review and approve all language included in the consent form. To facilitate this review, investigators should not deviate from currently approved authorization template language as described above, unless unavoidable. Any deviation proposed by the sponsor or study team must be submitted according to the IRB’s current study application requirements for review and approval (e.g., submission of a separate copy of consent with all required authorization elements and statements labeled for review).

* 1. Exempt Research

Written informed consent is not required for research that is determined to be exempt from IRB review and approval in accordance with 45 CFR 46.101(b). However, the Privacy Rule still applies if that research involves PHI, and written authorization must be obtained from the subject unless the IRB grants a waiver as described below.

* 1. Waiver of Authorization and Required Documentation

Under the Privacy Rule, the IRB may waive or alter, in whole or in part, the Privacy Rule's written authorization requirements for the use and disclosure of PHI in connection with a particular research project. An investigator may seek a complete (full) waiver of the authorization requirements for some types of research.

For example, research conducted on existing databases or repositories that contain limited individual contact information, may qualify for a full waiver. The IRB may also approve a request that removes some, but not all, required elements of a written authorization (i.e., an alteration). For example, removing the element that describes the purpose of the requested use/disclosure of the PHI in cases where identification of the specific research study may affect the results of the study.

It is important to note that the waiver granted for a study applies only to the use of the PHI for that study, and no other studies. Any subsequent use or disclosure of the PHI obtained for a different research study from the waivered study must have a separate authorization. An exception may apply if the new research meets one of the exceptions criteria under section 45 CFR 164.512(i) (e.g., waiver of authorization) or 45 CFR 164.514(e) (i.e., as a limited data set with a Data Use Agreement), but the IRB must make this determination that exception criteria are met. The investigator is not permitted to make this determination.

To approve a request for waiver or alteration of the requirement to obtain individual authorization, the IRB must determine (via information provided by the investigator in the IRB application) and document that the use meets all of the following three criteria:

* The use or disclosure of the PHI involves no more than a minimal risk to the privacy of subjects, based on, at least, the presence of the following elements:
  + An adequate plan to protect PHI identifiers from improper use and disclosure
  + An adequate plan to destroy the identifiers at the earliest opportunity, consistent with the conduct of the research, unless there is a health or research justification for retaining the identifiers, or such retention is otherwise required by law, and
  + Adequate written assurances that the PHI will not be reused or disclosed to any other person or entity, except as required by law, for authorized oversight of the research study, or for other research for which the use or disclosure of the PHI is permitted by the Privacy Rule.
* The research could not practicably be conducted without the waiver or alteration, and
* The research could not practicably be conducted without access to and use of the PHI.

IRB documentation (i.e., study approval or exemption letter) granting the waiver must include the following information:

* The identity of the approving IRB (i.e., WSU IRB)
* The date on which the waiver or alteration was approved
* A statement that the IRB has determined that all the specified criteria for a waiver or an alteration were met
* A brief description of the PHI for which use or access has been determined by the IRB to be necessary in connection with the specific research activity, and
* A statement that the waiver or alteration was reviewed and approved under either normal or expedited review procedures

Generally, if a research protocol qualifies for a waiver of informed consent from the IRB, the research protocol may be eligible for a waiver of authorization under the Privacy Rule. However, the IRB must make the determination whether waiver of authorization is appropriate. Investigators remain accountable, and have responsibility, for any PHI released under a waiver of authorization.

Investigators who conduct medical record reviews and secondary data analyses should be aware that the “not practicable without a waiver” standard requires substantive justification. For example, it may be practicable to get written authorization from 30 subjects who are current patients of the investigator. In contrast, it may not be practicable to obtain written authorization from 500 stroke patients seen at Good Samaritan Hospital during the past ten years.

* 1. Accounting of Research Disclosures

The Privacy Rule gives individuals the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of PHI made by WSU, the covered entity (see 45 CFR 164.528). This accounting must include disclosures of PHI that occurred during the six years prior to the individual’s request for an accounting, or since the effective date of HIPAA (whichever is sooner), and must include specified information regarding each disclosure. A more general accounting is permitted for subsequent multiple disclosures to the same person or entity for a single purpose (see 45 CFR 164.528(b) (3)).

To meet the accounting requirements, it is important to understand the difference between a use and a disclosure. Disclosures occur whenever PHI is shared with a person or organization outside Wright State University, unless WSU has designated a recipient as a “workforce member.” During the conduct of research PHI is commonly “disclosed” to non-WSU workforce members such as research sponsors, external collaborators, contract research organizations, and sample testing laboratories. “Use” means to employ, apply, utilize, examine or analyze PHI maintained within WSU.

Accounting is required for certain “disclosures, not for “use” of PHI.

* + 1. Applicable Research Disclosures

Investigators must account for all disclosures of PHI under a waiver (partial and full) of authorization granted by the IRB or disclosures of decedent PHI for research where no authorization on behalf of the individual has been obtained.

Among the types of research disclosures that are exempt from this accounting requirement are:

* Research disclosures made pursuant to an individual’s written authorization;
* Disclosures of the limited data set to researchers with a data use agreement under 45 CFR 164.514(e).

PHI that has been obtained through a review preparatory to research (as defined in the regulations) is not to be removed from the covered entity (i.e., disclosed) by the investigator in the course of the review. Therefore, it is also not subject to the accounting requirements.

* + 1. Single Disclosure Per Individual for Research Involving Less Than 50 Subjects

As a general rule, the following information must be maintained and provided to an individual or their authorized representative upon request:

* The date of the disclosure;
* The name of the entity or person who received the protected health information and, if known, the address of such entity or person;
* A brief description of the protected health information disclosed; and
* A brief statement of the purpose of the disclosure that reasonably informs the individual of the basis for the disclosure or, in lieu of such statement, a copy of the applicable written request for a disclosure, if any.
  + 1. Multiple Disclosures Per Individual for Research Involving Less Than 50 Subjects

If there have been multiple disclosures to the same person or entity (such as multiple disclosures of that person’s information to a researcher or sponsor) during the “accounting period” the person is requesting, the following information may be provided:

* The information required above for the first disclosure during the accounting period;
* The frequency, periodicity, or number of the disclosures made during the accounting period; and
* The date of the last disclosure during the accounting period.
  + 1. Disclosures for Research Involving 50 or More Subjects

In addition, for research disclosures of PHI without the individual’s authorization pursuant to 45 CFR164.512(i), and that involve at least 50 individuals (such as with research databases), the Privacy Rule allows for a simplified accounting of such disclosures. Under this simplified accounting provision, covered entities may provide individuals with the following for disclosures where the PHI about the individual was (or may have been) included:

* The name of the protocol or other research activity;
* A description, in plain language, of the research protocol or other research activity, including the purpose of the research and the criteria for selecting particular records;
* A brief description of the type of PHI that was disclosed;
* The date or period of time during which such disclosures occurred, or may have occurred, including the date of the last such disclosure during the accounting period;
* The name, address, and telephone number of the entity that sponsored the research and of the researcher to whom the information was disclosed; and
* A statement that the PHI of the individual may or may not have been disclosed for a particular protocol or other research activity.
  + 1. Required Logging of Research Disclosures

Investigators are responsible for logging disclosures described above using the electronic “Research Accounting of Disclosures” form found at <https://www.wright.edu/research/compliance/human-subjects>.

A copy of the required log information (Sections 1.F.2, 1.F.3, 1.F.4) must be maintained for audit purposes by the investigator for at least six years and securely stored to protect confidentiality.

* + 1. Individual Requests for Accounting of Disclosures

All individual requests for an accounting of disclosures will be directed to the VPR Designee. This official will be responsible for providing the required information in accordance with all applicable WSU policies and requirements. If an individual requests additional information about disclosure of their PHI for research purposes after receiving their initial accounting, the applicable investigator will be responsible for providing as much additional information about the disclosure as available to the VPR Designee.

The documentation of disclosures and related information must be maintained for at least six years from the completion of the research involving the disclosure of PHI.

* 1. De-Identified Data

Data that may be considered “de-identified” under HHS and FDA regulation may not be considered “de-identified” under the Privacy Rule. For example, under HHS regulations (45 CFR 46.101(b) (4)) an investigator can record data such that the subjects “cannot be identified, directly or” indirectly “through identifiers linked to the subjects.” Under this scenario, individual subject data collected by the investigator containing a zip code could be considered “de-identified,” but not de-identified under the Privacy Rule.

Using improperly de-identified data for research can constitute non-compliance. Therefore, investigators who plan to conduct research involving “de-identified data” are encouraged to consult with the HIPAA & Privacy Compliance Office or the IRB Office prior to initiation of such research to ensure that their proposed data set(s) meet the Privacy Rule requirements.

To be considered “de-identified” under the Privacy Rule, EITHER: all of the following 18 identifiers of the individual, their relatives, employers, or household members must have been removed from the individual’s data set by an individual that is not a member of the study team (e.g., medical records official, administrator of a database):

* + 1. Names (including the patient’s name and names of other individuals connected to the patient)
    2. Geographic subdivisions smaller than a state (zip-code, street address, etc…)
    3. All elements of a date (except year) including birth date, admission date, discharge date, date of death, and all ages over 89)
    4. Telephone numbers
    5. Fax numbers
    6. E-mail address
    7. Social security number
    8. Medical record number
    9. Health plan beneficiary numbers
    10. Account numbers
    11. Certificate/license numbers
    12. Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers including license plates
    13. Device identifiers and serial numbers
    14. Web universal resource locators (URLs)
    15. Internet protocol (IP) address numbers
    16. Biometric identifiers including fingerprints and voice prints
    17. Full face photographic (or comparable) images
    18. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code unless otherwise permitted by the Privacy Rule for re-identification, and

WSU does not have actual knowledge that the information could be used alone or in combination with other information to identify an individual who is a subject of the information.

**OR**

The data is grouped in such a way that a qualified statistician using accepted analytic techniques concludes that the risk of identification based on the information in the data set is substantially limited, and that if the information is used alone or in combination with other reasonably available information, it does not identify an individual subject (e.g., aggregate data) [45 CFR 164.514(b)].

Health information that meets this definition of “de-identified” is not considered PHI; therefore, the Privacy Rule permits investigators to use and disclose de-identified data without obtaining authorization and without further restrictions on use or disclosure.

* 1. Limited Data Sets and Data Use Agreements

A “limited data set” is defined in the Privacy Rule as a limited set of PHI that may be disclosed to an outside party without a subject’s authorization if certain conditions are met. First, the purpose of the disclosure may only be for research, public health or health care operations. Second, the person receiving the information must sign a data use agreement with WSU prior to being given the limited data set containing WSU PHI.

Specifically, as it relates to the individual or his or her relatives, employers or household members, all of the following 16 identifiers must be removed in order for health information to be considered a limited data set:

* + 1. Names (including the patient’s name and names of other individuals connected to the patient)
    2. Street addresses (other than town, city, state and zip code)
    3. Telephone numbers
    4. Fax numbers
    5. E-mail addresses
    6. Social Security numbers
    7. Medical records numbers
    8. Health plan beneficiary numbers
    9. Account numbers
    10. Certificate license number
    11. Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plates
    12. Device identifiers and serial numbers
    13. Web universal resource locators (URLs)
    14. Internet protocol (IP) address numbers
    15. Biometric identifiers (including finger and voice prints)
    16. Full face photographic (or comparable) images

The health information that may remain in the disclosed information of a limited data set includes:

* + - Dates such as admission, discharge, service, date of birth, date of death
    - City, state, five digit or more zip code
    - Ages in years, months or days or hours

It is important to note that the information in the limited data set is not considered de-identified and therefore is still subject to the requirements of the Privacy Rule.

A data use agreement must meet the following standards specified in the Privacy Rule:

* + - Establish the permitted uses and disclosures of the limited data set
    - Identify who may use or receive the information
    - Prohibit the recipient from using or further disclosing the information, except as permitted by the agreement or as permitted by law
    - Require the recipient to use appropriate safeguards to prevent a use or disclosure that is not permitted by the agreement
    - Require the recipient to report to the covered entity any unauthorized use or disclosure of which it becomes aware
    - Require the recipient to ensure that any agents (including a subcontractor) to whom it provides the information will agree to the same restrictions as provided in the agreement, and
    - Prohibit the recipient from identifying the information or contacting the individuals whose PHI is included in the limited data set.

The limited data set provisions of the Privacy Rule also require WSU, to take reasonable steps to cure any breach by a recipient of the data use agreement. That is, if WSU determines that data provided to a recipient is being used in a manner not permitted by the agreement, it must work with the recipient to correct this problem. If these steps are unsuccessful, WSU must discontinue disclosure of PHI to the recipient under the data use agreement and report the problem to the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”).

Research Involving “External” Limited Data Sets

WSU investigators who wish to conduct HSR using a limited data set from an external institution (e.g., The Ohio State University) must have the external institution’s Data Use Agreement reviewed and signed by a member of the Office of the Vice President for Research to ensure that it meets Privacy Rule and WSU requirements prior to receiving the data from the external/collaborating institution.

Investigators are required to submit a copy of any data use agreement to the WSU IRB as part of a study’s initial application process, as well.

* 1. Non-compliance and Privacy Breaches

Any investigator who is aware of potential non-compliance with this policy must immediately report it to the IRB Chair, who will notify appropriate institutional officials (including the VPR Designee) and facilitate review of the matter under applicable institutional policy.

The Privacy Rule requires that WSU and/or applicable covered entity review and address any potential privacy breach within 60 days of any Workforce Member discovering the breach. Therefore, prompt reporting of any Privacy Rule compliance issues is essential to meet this requirement.

1. **Responsibilities and Authorities:**
   1. The IRB is responsible for:
      * Approving template authorization language
      * Reviewing and approving authorization language contained within a consent document
      * Reviewing and approving requests for a waiver, partial waiver or alteration of the Privacy Rule’s authorization requirements, and
      * Reviewing, in coordination with the VPR Designee, non-compliance allegations involving Privacy Rule requirements.
   2. Investigators are responsible for:
      * Providing complete and accurate information to the IRB regarding the proposed use, creation and disclosure of PHI
      * Meeting preparatory to research requirements prior to accessing PHI
      * Complying with account of disclosures logging requirements
      * Ensuring that each human subject receives a signed copy of his/her authorization, and
      * Properly storing signed authorizations for at least six years from date of signature or the expiration date contained in the authorization.
2. **Records:**

Signed authorizations must be retained by the investigator (or WSU in absence of investigator) for six (6) years from the date of signature or when it was last in effect, whichever is later.

1. **References:**
   1. 45 CFR Part 160
   2. 45 CFR Part 164
2. **Appendix A**

**WSU Template Authorization Language**

\*\* Please insert template language as the last “section” of your informed consent document. Provide study specific information for all highlighted sections and delete all instructions before submitting to IRB for review. See Authorization Worksheet for additional guidance. \*\*

**Authorization to Use and Disclose Your Health Information**

State and Federal laws, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), require researchers to protect the privacy of your health information. This section of the consent form describes how researchers, with your authorization (permission), may use and release (disclose or share) your protected health information (PHI) for this research study. **Please read this section of the consent form carefully.**

If you sign this document, you give permission to (insert name of PI) and his (or her) WSU/[insert name of covered entity] research team to use or disclose (release) the following protected health information: *(List PHI to be used, created or disclosed for this study in a specific and meaningful way.)*

* Your medical records for past medical conditions and medications related to your heart health
* All information (research records and medical records) created during your participation in this research study
* All information related to illness or hospitalizations that occur during your participation in this study

The research team needs this information to conduct the CDE Trial. The CDE Trial is a study to test whether a device called an XYZ can increase the likelihood of survival in patients at risk of a stroke or heart attack. (*Should include title and purpose of research study*)

**Disclosure of your protected health information**

If you sign this form, the researchers may share your health information during the conduct of the study with:

* + - Non-WSU/[insert name of covered entity] researchers or organizations working with WSU/[insert name of covered entity] researchers: insert names/organizations here
    - Law enforcement or other agencies, when required by law
    - Wright State University’s Institutional Review Board, which oversees our research
    - The sponsor (the organization paying for) of this research study: insert name(s) here
    - Representatives of government agencies (i.e. Food and Drug Administration and the Office of Human Research Protection)
    - Other authorized Wright State University and [insert name of covered entity, if applicable] Officials who oversee research and clinical care
    - (*List all that apply - Data Coordinating Centers, Data Safety Monitoring Boards, consultants, etc...who will/may be given access*)

Please understand that these persons/organizations who may receive your health information may not be required by U.S. Federal privacy laws (such as HIPAA) to protect it and may share your information with others without your permission.

This authorization does not have an expiration date

However, you can change your mind and cancel this authorization at any time. To cancel this authorization, you must write to: Dr. ABC at [insert name of covered entity], [insert street address], Dayton, Ohio 44304.

If you cancel this authorization, you will no longer be allowed to take part in the research study. If you cancel this authorization, health information you had already allowed us to obtain may still be used and disclosed by researchers in order to maintain the integrity and reliability of the research, and to report any adverse (bad) effects that may have happened to you.

**Right to refuse to sign this Authorization**

You have the right to refuse to sign and give your authorization. If you do not sign this form, your non-research related treatment, payment or enrollment in any health plans, or your eligibility for other medical benefits at [insert name of covered entity] will not be affected in any way.

However, if you do not sign this form, you will not be able to participate in this research study.

**Signature of Subject**

I have read (or someone has read to me) the above information. I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. **I agree to participate in this research and authorize the use and disclosure of my protected health information for this study.** I will be given a copy of this signed and dated form.

Signature Date

Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent and Authorization

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Person Obtaining Consent and Authorization

Signature of Legally Authorized Rep. Date

Description of LAR’s Authority (add highlighted section if LAR approved by IRB)