

POLICY

1. Research will be viewed as a vehicle to create change in our region and encourage excellence in staff as well as to provide knowledge. Northern Health will use research findings and best practices to improve the quality and safety of services delivered and will measure these changes in ongoing work to improve services (Northern Health Strategic Plan: 2004-2008).
2. Research is defined as “a systematic investigation to establish facts, principles, or generalizable knowledge” (Tri-Council Policy Statement, 1.1). Research is one form of new knowledge that contributes to evidence-informed decision-making in health services delivery and policy development in Northern Health. Other forms of new knowledge include program evaluation and quality improvement projects.
 - a) Program evaluation is a “time-bound exercise that attempts to assess systematically and objectively the relevance, performance and success of ongoing and completed programs and projects” (UNDP, 2002).
 - b) Quality improvement projects (i.e., Continuous Quality Improvement, audits) involve monitoring or assessment to ensure that standards of quality are being met, with the intent to correct or enhance the quality of service delivery in Northern Health.
 - c) The results of both program evaluation and quality improvement projects are intended to be specific to the program or service under review, and to be internal to Northern Health.
3. Research conducted within, on, or for Northern Health must be guided by Northern Health’s Research Principles and the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.
 - a) Research principles:
 - i. The research project or proposal, and the conduct of the project, must adhere to Northern Health’s vision and mission and must be consistent with the values of Northern Health.
 - ii. The research project must be consistent with goals and priorities of the Northern Health Health Services Plan. It must demonstrate clear relevance to health services delivery and policy.
 - iii. Conducting the research project with Northern Health must not result in direct or latent negative consequences on the Health Services Plan.
 - iv. The research project must assist in developing capacity for Northern Health regarding research, research use, and/or service delivery within Northern Health.

- v. Research must have respect for, and an assessment of, the burden of research on the operations of the organization and/or its staff, programs, and clients.
- vi. The research project or proposal, and the conduct of the project, must recognize and respect the context of northern communities and their populations.
- vii. Research involving vulnerable populations must reflect a respectful partnership or collaboration.
- viii. Research involving First Nations subjects or communities must reflect a respectful partnership or collaboration.
- ix. The research proposal must include a plan regarding knowledge translation within Northern Health.

b) Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans guiding principles:

- i) Respect for Human Dignity
- ii) Respect for Free and Informed Consent
- iii) Respect for Vulnerable Persons
- iv) Respect for Privacy and Confidentiality
- v) Respect for Justice and Inclusiveness
- vi) Balancing Harms and Benefits
- vii) Minimizing Harm
- viii) Maximizing Benefit

- 4. Northern Health will actively support participation of staff and medical staff in research and demonstrate a growth in participation in research activities (Northern Health Strategic Plan 2004 – 2008).
- 5. All research conducted within, on, or for Northern Health must be reviewed and approved by the Northern Health Research Review Committee. If the project requires involvement of participants beyond their normal treatment or different from the normal standard of care, and/or requires access to and use of health data (personal or otherwise) other than for normal administrative purposes, then the project must be reviewed by the Northern Health Research Review Committee. Program evaluation or quality improvement projects that contain an element of research in addition to assessment may also require review.
- 6. Northern Health has policy and process regarding the access to and use of personal health information for research purposes (see Research Requests and Privacy - Health Information Management Services (HIMS) 277).

REFERENCES

Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, *Tri-*

Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. 1998 (with 2000, 2002 and 2005 amendments).

Northern Health Strategic Plan: 2004 – 2008.

United Nations Development Programme Evaluation Office. *Handbook on monitoring and evaluation for results. 2002.*

DRAFT

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