

Following public outcry after the discovery of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study and complaints that the Nuremberg Code and Helsinki were difficult to interpret and inadequate to cover complex situations, the US Government drafted the National Research Act of 1974. This act created the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. They created the Belmont Report, which remains the basis for the US Department of Health and Human Services human subject protection regulations.

3 Core Principles:

1. Respect for Persons
Individuals should be treated as autonomous agents and vulnerable individuals should be protected
Autonomy through informed consent, voluntariness, and understanding
2. Beneficence
Maximize benefits and minimize risks
Do no harm
3. Justice
Individuals should receive fair and equal distribution of clinical research burdens
Selection of subjects is equitable

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations based off the Belmont Report. The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) is responsible for the implementation of 45 CFR 46.

- Subpart A – The Common Rule – Fundamental guidelines for ethics of all human research; Governed IRBs
- Subpart B – Additional protections for research with pregnant women and fetuses
- Subpart C – Additional protections for research with prisoners
- Subpart D – Additional protections for research with children
- Subpart E – Requirements for IRB registration

International Conference on Harmonization Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP) was developed as an international ethical and scientific quality standard for designing, conducting, recording, and reporting trials that involved the participation of human subjects. The goal was to facilitate the mutual acceptance of credible and ethical clinical trial data on an international level so that applications for marketing to various regulatory agencies around the world

Endorsed by the FDA in 1997, ICH guidelines have been adopted into law in several countries. ICH GCP (GCP) and should be strictly followed.

GCP training is required for all persons participating in NIH-funded or FDA-regulated clinical trials.