

Types of Research appropriate for review by Level 1 REC

Research requiring approval by a Level 1 REC (no risk to relatively low risk research – i.e. research carrying little or no risks or discomfort greater than usually encountered during normal daily life)

1. Anonymous surveys of a non-intrusive personal nature.
2. Unrecorded and anonymous observation of individuals in public areas.
3. Analysis of irrevocably anonymised and appropriately collected data.
4. Collection of non-invasive biological samples (e.g. hair, nails, saliva, semen, urine, buccal epithelial cells), for research studies that have no prospect of impacting on the healthcare of the participant (controls in particular). An example of an unacceptable protocol is interrogation of BRCA status or any genetic investigation that might have relevance for future treatment.
5. Interviews (consensual) with non-vulnerable adults.
6. Action research (Research initiated to solve an immediate problem or a reflective process of progressive problem solving conducted either by individuals on their own practice or by individuals working with others in teams or as part of a "community of practice" to improve the way they address issues and solve problems [participatory action research]).
7. Collection of specific biological samples using minimally invasive techniques (e.g. blood). Sample collection must be performed by a suitably qualified and competent person and will typically involve the collection of a single vial of <10ml blood. Researchers submitting applications that include biological samples will be required to provide details of measures in place for the collection, storage, usage, and disposal of the collected samples.
8. Surveys where respondents can be identified and where respondents have given appropriate explicit consent.

Types of Research not appropriate for Level 1 REC

Any research involving vulnerable persons, children under the age of 18, or service users of any age is not appropriate for review at Level 1 and such applications will not be accepted and advised to submit to Level 2 REC.

Any research that involves accessing patient notes, medical files etc. This type of application needs to be submitted to Level 2 REC and/or the relevant Hospital/Health Service REC.