



VIDEO SUMMARY

On Ethics Clearances

Resource person: Pan American Health Organization Ethics Review Committee | International public-health research ethics body | Curated from PAHO TV
On Ethics Clearances | Research Ethics and Integrity | research

A research ethics committee examines whether a study involving people has social and scientific value and whether its design can answer the question. Weak design can expose participants to burden or risk without producing useful knowledge, so methodology belongs inside ethical review.

The committee considers fair participant selection, risks and anticipated benefits, informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, data handling, community context, compensation, conflicts of interest, and protections for people who may face added vulnerability. It also checks whether the research team and site can carry out the protocol safely.

Approval normally comes before recruitment, data collection, or access to identifiable records. Researchers should submit the protocol, participant materials, consent process, tools, recruitment plans, data plan, and relevant agreements. Amendments, safety events, deviations, continuing review, and closure may require later reporting. Local rules determine which activities need full review, expedited review, exemption, or another form of institutional determination.