

Appendix A.

CMMS Policy for Ethical Review Exemptions

All research conducted in CMMS whether it is initiated by CMMS academic, or as a part of local, regional, and international collaboration **must** be reported to Research and Ethics Committee (REC) using standard REC formats (form1-4).

Research projects may qualify for ethical review waiver as detailed below:

A. Human Research:

1. Research based on review of published/publicly reported literature (literature review).
2. Research using publicly anonymized information on individuals available in trustful source of information such as surveillance databases, registries and health insurance.
3. Research involving the use of secondary data
4. Quality assurance studies, program evaluations, performance reviews, and testing within normal educational and/or organizational requirements that meet confidentiality of individuals.

B. Lab. Research:

1. The use of tissue culture (in vitro studies)
2. Bacterial culture-based studies (not isolated from patients)
3. The use of tissues obtained at necropsy without breaching the confidentiality of individuals.
4. The use of eggs, chick embryo, single-celled organisms or fish.

C. Collaborative research:

Collaborative international work can be eligible to exemption if:

- I. The CMMS member is not the main author (first last or corresponding)
- II. No experimental work is conducted within AGU or involving AGU students or individuals under the responsibility of the CMMS.
- III. The work obtained ethical approval through main authors, where data collection was performed.

❖ Multicentre studies involving CMMS as a partner responsible of data collection from individuals requires ethical approval and in addition, prior approval from the CMMS Dean to participate in multicentre multinational studies, in addition to approvals from all centre's ethical bodies.

Procedure for ethical review exemption:

1. The authorization of ethical waiver **must** be issued after informed agreement of REC.
2. Researchers cannot assume that they are exempted without a review from the REC to ensure that the research meets these specific conditions.
3. The applicants fill form 1 and send it to the REC chair with request for exemption with justifications.
4. The REC Chair or a designated REC member review the request and deliberate with REC members. The applicant to be notified within one week if the application is exempted or the application needs ethical review.
5. In specific cases, the REC can request official clearance from the respective study locale regulatory/ethical bodies before the research ethical waiver can be issued.
6. The REC Chair communicate the results to the applicant, Vice Dean for Research and to CMMS Dean.