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Manual	GOVERNANCE POLICY	
Section 3.0	Program Quality and Effectiveness	
Title	RESEARCH PROJECTS	
Issuing Body/ Prepared By	Quality Committee	
Approved by	Board of Directors	Number: GOV 3.45
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Purpose

As part of its responsibility for the overall quality of patient care provided within the organization, the Board recognizes that research is an essential component in advancing evidenced based care, but that research is not its core function and that there are special considerations that exist when conducting research in a community hospital setting. The hospital therefore supports research subject to certain considerations.

Policy

1. The Board will ensure that the Hospital has an operational process in place for managing research projects undertaken within the organization.
2. Such process will include provisions to ensure that:
 - a) All research carried out at Bluewater Health
 - Is consistent with the hospital's mission, vision and values
 - Does not negatively impact the Hospital's resources
 - Is conducted in a scientifically sound and ethical manner
 - Complies with Accreditation Canada governance standards.
 - Complies with the Personal Health Information Protection Act
 - b) Only a member of the Professional Staff or an employee of Bluewater Health with actual responsibility (principal investigator or site liaison with principal investigator) for a proposed research project is eligible to apply to conduct clinical research within the Hospital.
 - c) Unless the Hospital's role is limited to facilitating chart reviews or other passive involvement, all applications for clinical research projects have been:
 - Approved by a Research Ethics review board which is located at a recognized institution of post-secondary education; or

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- Initiated through government agencies such as the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences, Cancer Care Ontario, or similar entity; or
 - Approved by a Canadian or USA teaching hospital/centre.
- d) All clinical research involving human subjects adheres to the principles of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.
- e) All medical research complies with the research ethics guidelines established by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA).
- f) A process is in place to evaluate other ethical consideration relevant to the study.
3. The Quality Committee shall monitor the types of research being undertaken within the organization and provide a report back to the Board on an annual basis.

The Board hereby delegates responsibility and authority to the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief of Professional Staff to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate processes to manage research projects within the organization consistent with this policy.

Monitoring

- Method: 1. Review of the policy.
 2. Review of research projects undertaken within the organization.
- Frequency: 1. Annually