

OHRs Information Sheet Overview of the Operations of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Institutional Review Boards

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) has six institutional review boards registered with the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Office for Human Research Subjects. These IRBs function on behalf of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center and review all cancer-related research conducted under the umbrella of the DF/HCC on behalf of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Brigham and Women's Hospital; Children's Hospital Boston; Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; and, the Massachusetts General Hospital.

In addition, the DFCI has a Federal Wide Assurance with the USDHHS that **requires DFCI IRB review of ALL research, including non-cancer research**, conducted by any DFCI employee.

The following is general information about each of the DFCI IRBs.

1. IRB Panel A - This panel meets every other Tuesday from 12-2 and reviews primarily new protocols and amendments. This IRB has the expertise to review any matter, if necessary, and does review single patient INDs.
2. IRB Panel B - This panel meets every other Tuesday from 12-2, alternating with Panel A, and also reviews primarily new protocols and amendments. This IRB has the expertise to review any matter, if necessary, and does review single patient INDs.
3. IRB Panel C - This panel meets every other Thursday morning from 8-10 and reviews primarily full board continuing reviews, amendments, serious adverse events, and other events such as deviations, violations and eligibility exceptions that require full board review. This IRB has the expertise to review any matter, if necessary, and does review single patient INDs.
4. IRB Panel F - This panel meets every other Thursday morning from 8-10, alternating with Panel C, and reviews primarily full board continuing reviews, amendments, serious adverse events, and other events such as deviations, violations and eligibility exceptions that require full board review. This IRB has the expertise to review any matter, if necessary, and does review single patient INDs.
5. IRB Panel D - This panel meets two Mondays every month from 10-12. This panel reviews research that does not involve a clinical intervention. It reviews a diversity of research--it is not limited to minimal risk research--and includes additional procedures conducted for research purposes only, such as blood draws or biopsies; surveys, tissue repositories, and the like. This panel reviews new protocols, full board continuing reviews, amendments, and other events such as unanticipated problems involving risks to subjects or others that require full board review.
6. IRB Panel E- This panel is a rapid response IRB that is used for emergent situations.