

Summary of Single IRB Guidance for Peer Reviewers

The NIH Single IRB (sIRB) Policy

For grant applications submitted for a due date of January 25, 2018 or later, and contract proposals responding to solicitations posted on/after January 25, 2018:

All domestic sites of a multi-site study conducting the same non-exempt human subjects research protocol will rely on a single IRB of record.*

- Non-U.S. sites are not required to use or rely on a single IRB

The policy applies to **grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and intramural research**. It does not apply to career development (K), research training (T), and fellowship (F) awards.

There are 3 types of exceptions:

(1) Legal or policy requirements for local IRB review and (2) ancillary studies (time-limited) do not require NIH approval. (3) Exceptions for compelling justifications for local IRB review must be approved by the NIH sIRB Exceptions Review Committee (ERC).

See the [Final NIH Single IRB Policy](#) and the [Guidance on Exceptions](#) for more information.

No change to the peer review process; adherence to the sIRB Policy is not a review criterion

- Reviewers should give a cursory look to see if a plan is included in the application (*PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trial Information Form, Section 3.2*).
- Presence/absence of sIRB plan does not influence the impact score or overall rating of human subjects (unless there are specific review criteria in the FOA).
- If an applicable sIRB Plan is missing, reviewers can add a comment to the review notes or inform the SRO during the meeting.
- Proceed with current peer review guidelines.