November 13, 2024

Osagie Ebekozien, MD, MPH, CPHQ
T1D Exchange
101 Federal Street, Suite 440
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Dear Dr. Ebekozien:

SUBJECT: REGULATORY OPINION: NOT RESEARCH - QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
Investigator: Osagie Ebekozien, MD, MPH, CPHQ
Protocol Title: Reducing therapeutic inertia and Improving workflow to automated insulin delivery across the T1D Exchange quality improvement network (IMPROVAID)

This letter is in response to your request for an opinion as to whether the above-mentioned project would constitute human subject research requiring IRB review.

This opinion is based on federal regulation 45 CFR 46 and associated guidance.

Under 45 CFR 46.102(l), the definition of research includes "…a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Activities that meet this definition constitute research for purposes of this policy, whether or not they are conducted or supported under a program that is considered research for other purposes. For example, some demonstration and service programs may include research activities. ."

The Office of Human Research Protection has issued guidance indicating that quality improvement projects do not meet the definition of research. This guidance states:

Question 2: Do the HHS regulations for the protection of human subjects in research (45 CFR part 46) apply to quality improvement activities conducted by one or more institutions whose purposes are limited to: (a) implementing a practice to improve the quality of patient care, and (b) collecting patient or provider data regarding the implementation of the practice for clinical, practical, or administrative purposes?

Answer: No. Such activities do not satisfy the definition of "research" under 45 CFR 46.102(d), which is "…a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to

> generalizable knowledge…" Therefore, the HHS regulations for the protection of human subjects do not apply to such quality improvement activities, and there is no requirement under these regulations for such activities to undergo review by an IRB, or for these activities to be conducted with provider or patient informed consent.

This project does not involve research. This project will have three aims: (1) Increase the percentage of T1DX-QI centers reporting AID system use and analyze real world data on AID use trend; (2) Complete qualitative analysis to understand factors that influence diabetes providers recommendations of AID systems; and (3) Increase the percentage of newly diagnosed patients prescribed AID. Therefore, WCGIRB has determined this project is not research and does not require IRB review.

This determination that this project is not research subject to 45 CFR 46 can apply to multiple sites, but it does not apply to any institution that has an institutional policy of requiring an entity other than WCG IRB (such as an internal IRB) to make such determinations. WCG IRB cannot provide a determination that overrides the jurisdiction of a local IRB or other institutional mechanism for making such determinations. You are responsible for ensuring that each site to which this determination applies can and will accept WCG IRB's determination.

WCG IRB's determination of an Exemption only applies to US regulations; it does not apply to regulations or determinations for research conducted outside of the US. Please discuss with the local IRB authorities in the country where this activity is taking place to determine if local IRB review is required.

Please note that any future changes to the project may affect its status as research, and you may want to contact WCG IRB about the effect these changes may have on the status before implementing them. WCG IRB does not impose an expiration date on its determinations of research.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Olga I. Balderas, JD, at (360) 570-1302, or e-mail RegulatoryAffairs@wcgclinical.com.

OIB:jm
Not Research-Quality Improvement Exemption-Ebekozien (11-13-2024)
cc: Emma Ospelt, T1D Exchange
WCG IRB Accounting
WCG IRB Work Order # 1-1819807-1