

## VA Central IRB and HSR&D studies

The purpose of the VA Central IRB (C-IRB) is two-fold: 1) to enhance the quality of human research protection in multi-site human research projects by performing appropriate ethical and scientific review while ensuring local issues are addressed; and 2) to enhance the efficiency of these reviews across participating sites.

Multi-site studies in which multiple sites are recruiting subjects and carrying out nearly identical research activity should be submitted to the C-IRB. Multi-site studies involving very small numbers of sites, or where the activities at each site are distinct, may be appropriate for IRB approval at respective local IRBs, but such a decision will be made by HSR&D staff in consultation with the PI and C-IRB as appropriate. Additional information about the C-IRB is available at the following website: <http://www.research.va.gov/vacentralirb/>. This site includes contact details for the C-IRB Administrator, as well as forms and other information about submission procedures.