RESEARCH SERVICE NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Message from the IRB

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our Research Service Newsletter! The theme of this edition is designed to provide an update on the latest IRBNet submission forms and requirements. We hope you find this newsletter helpful and encourage you to reach out with any questions or topics of interest for future editions.

Important IRBNet Updates

- **NEW VA Central IRB** forms have been added to the CIRB library in IRBNet. Confirm your team is working from the current version of each study document.
- **NEW HIPAA Authorization** (VA 10-0493 dated 2-1-2026) must be used for all new projects and any updates submitted to a previously approved HIPAA Authorization form – this applies to any project under CIRB or BVAHCS IRB oversight.
- **NEW ERDSP wizard** and submission process. Please see instructions added to IRBNet under Forms and Templates
- **NEW SRS** forms have been added to the SRS library in IRBNet. Confirm your team is working from the current version of each document.
- **NEW BVAHCS IRB** forms have been added to the IRB! Please check the IRB library in IRBNet before submitting a new project, a continuing review, a status report or an amendment.

IRBNet Submission Reminders

- Make sure your Continuing Review or Status Report is submitted at least 30 days before your approval expiration date
- Make sure training for your entire study team is up to date. Minimum requirements for conducting human research include:

  VA Privacy and HIPAA
  VA Privacy, Information Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior
  VA Technology Transfer Program
  CITI VA- Human Subjects Protection

Upcoming Events

- **Research Town Hall** [May 19th, 10:00-11:00]:
  Click here to join the meeting

Ideas for Future Newsletters

Please tell us what you'd like to see covered in this newsletter! Melanie.smith9@va.gov

MELANIE SMITH, RN, BSN
BIRMINGHAM VAHCS MAIN HOSPITAL - RM 3333
(205)933-8101 X335550