

Legally Effective but Ethically Inadequate: Institutional Review Board Policies for Consent from Legally Authorized Representatives

Robert R. Harrison

Table 2.

Locations of LAR Provisions by Policy Category

Policy category	Number of sites ¹
	(N = 25)
Specific LAR policy	10
Vulnerable-populations policy	5
General informed consent policy	9
Impaired decision-making policy	10

^{1.} At ten of the sites, LAR provisions were found in more than one policy category.

Table 3.
Sources for or Approaches to Defining "LAR"

Source or approach	Number of policies
	(N = 25)
Pre-2018 Common Rule	11
Revised Common Rule	3
Plain language	3
Either version of the Common Rule and plain language	1
No definition	8

Table 4.

Policies about Hierarchies Used to Determine a Surrogate

The nature of the surrogate-hierarchy policy	Number of policies
	(N = 25)
The policy explicitly relies on a hierarchy provided by state law for determining a surrogate to make treatment decisions.	14
It is unclear whether the policy concerns the treatment context.	6
The policy does not refer to treatment.	6
The policy notes the research-treatment distinction.	9

Table 5.

Features That Could Compensate for Ethical Deficiencies in Reliance on the LAR

Feature of the policy	Number of policies (N = 25)
The LAR's capacity is mentioned.	2
The LAR's capacity is required.	0
The subject values and preferences are mentioned.	8
Relational intimacy between the LAR and the subject is required.	4
Continuous involvement of the LAR is mentioned.	3
Continuous involvement is required.	0
There are risk-related enrollment limitations.	17
There are risk-related limits on LAR consent.	0

Table 6.

Decision-Making Standards in the Policies

Decision-making standard(s)	Number of policies
	(N = 25)
Substituted judgment is mentioned.	8
Substituted judgment is required.1	6
Substituted judgment is explained. ²	5
Use of the best interest standard is explicitly permitted.	7
Use of the best interest standard is required.	6
The policy spoke of the basis for a decision without using any terminology for the standard.	8
The policy includes both the substituted judgment and the best interest standards.	7

¹ An additional site required substituted judgment without using that terminology.

² An additional site explained substituted judgment without using that terminology.