



Influence of Dispositional Optimism on Ethically Salient Research Perspectives: *A Pilot Study*

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Appendix 1. **Items Describing Safeguards Procedures**

1. Before a research study starts, a group of people discuss the project carefully to decide whether it is safe and helpful to do. This group is made up of doctors, researchers, and people from the community. It is usually called an **IRB**, or **Institutional Review Board**.

A. How much does this **protect people** who participate in research?

B. If you knew that a project was approved by an Institutional Review Board how would it influence **your willingness to participate** in the project?

2. While a research study is being performed, an independent group of experts may watch over it. This group of people, a **Data Safety Monitoring Board**, makes sure that the risks of the research are not too serious. They also make sure that the project is being performed properly. This group sometimes will stop projects that are too risky or are causing problems that the researchers did not expect.

A. How much does this **protect people** who participate in research?

B. If you knew that a project was being watched over by a Data Safety Monitoring Board, how would it influence **your willingness to participate**?

3. Before a person even begins their participation in a research project, the researchers will talk to them about the purpose of the project and its risks and benefits. The researchers will also explain that participation is voluntary and will answer any questions that people may have before they choose to join the project. Almost always, the researchers will review this information with each person in writing and get the persons' signature. This process is called getting **informed consent**.

A. How much does this **protect people** who participate in research?

B. If you knew a project involved this informed consent process, how would it influence **your willingness to participate** in the project?

4. Sometimes patients who could take part in research have difficulty understanding information about the project, or they are too upset or too ill to make a decision for themselves. In these situations, another person such as a family member can make decisions for the patient about his or her research participation. The job of the **designated decision maker** is to make the choice that the patient would want, if the patient were feeling better or better able to make decisions themselves.

A. How much does this **protect people** who participate in research?

B. If you knew that a project involved this designated decision maker, how would it influence **your willingness to participate** in the project?

5. When information is gathered from a person in a research project, the person is assigned a **special code number (confidential coding)**. That number is used to store personal information from the project separately from a person's name. In this way, a person's confidentiality will be protected.

A. How much does this **protect people** who participate in research?

B. If you knew researchers were using a special code to protect your confidentiality, how would it influence **your willingness to participate**?