List of Resources

TCPS 2 - Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2014). The purpose of this Policy is to establish principles to guide the design, ethical conduct and ethics review process of research involving humans. The core principles – Respect for Persons, Concern for Welfare, and Justice are outlined here. There are supplementary documents regarding interpretation, CORE training and other documents that aid in the understanding of the TCPS2.

Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA). The Act protects individual privacy by requiring, in most cases, private-sector organizations to obtain consent for the collection, use and disclosure of personal information and providing individuals with a right of access to their own personal information.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIP). The FOIP Act applied to public bodies, such as provincial government departments, boards and commission. It does not apply to private businesses, non-profit organizations or professional regulatory organizations operating in Alberta.

Alberta Health Information Act (2011). In addition to regulating information access, collection, use and disclosure practices of custodians, the HIA also covers the actions of affiliates. Affiliates include employees, volunteers, contractors and agencies under contract to the custodian. Some examples of affiliates can include reception and nursing staff at a doctors' office, pharmacy technicians or information desk and food service workers in a hospital.

Canadian Standard for research ethics boards reviewing clinical trials (CGSB) (2012). The Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) has published a new National Standard of Canada for Research Ethics Oversight of Biomedical Clinical Trials, CAN/CGSB-191.1-2013. The voluntary standard aims to provide research ethics boards (REBs) in Canada with a common platform for governance, membership, operations, ethics review processes, and quality management. The intended users of this standard are those individuals and groups responsible for ensuring that biomedical clinical trial research meets the high standard of research ethics expected by Canadians.

Tort of Invasion of Privacy: BC, SK, NL, MB. Not in Alberta.

Tort of “intrusion upon seclusion” used in Jones v. Tsige (2012) for Ontario Court of Appeal. Editorial by Heather Gardiner (Canadian Lawyer Mag, January, 2012). The Ontario Court of Appeal has created a new tort relating to personal privacy.
Nuremberg Code (1947). Ten legal and ethical principles for scientific experiments. Include consent, careful study design, importance of problem, avoidance of injury, need to assess risk, investigator preparedness, right to withdraw.


Universal declaration on bioethics and human rights (UNESCO) (2005). In dealing with ethical issues raised by medicine, life sciences and associated technologies as applied to human beings, the Declaration, as reflected in its title, anchors the principles it endorses in the rules that govern respect for human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms. By enshrining bioethics in international human rights and by ensuring respect for the life of human beings, the Declaration recognizes the interrelation between ethics and human rights in the specific field of bioethics.

Tri-council Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (2013). The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and in consultation with institutions that administer funds from the federal granting agencies, has updated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Roles and Responsibilities in the Management of Federal Grants and Awards. This MOU describes the basic requirements for obtaining and maintaining institutional eligibility to administer research funds.

CIHR guidelines for health research with aboriginal peoples (expired 2009, replaced by TCPS2 Chapter 9)

ICH good clinical practices. (Currently under revisions according to www.ich.org). Good Clinical Practice (GCP) is an international ethical and scientific quality standard for designing, conducting, recording and reporting trials that involve the participation of human subjects. Compliance with this standard provides public assurance that the rights, safety and well-being of trial subjects are protected, consistent with the principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki, and that the clinical trial data are credible.


Office for human research protection (US). The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) provides leadership in the protection of the rights, welfare, and wellbeing of subjects involved in research conducted or supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). OHRP helps ensure this by providing clarification and guidance, developing educational programs and materials, maintaining regulatory oversight, and providing advice on ethical and regulatory issues in biomedical and social-behavioral research

Federal drug administration (US). Various links to various acts and regulations.