

WHAT TYPES OF RESEARCH REQUIRE ETHICAL APPROVAL?

The following research is considered to involve MORE than minimal risk and requires ethical approval:

- research involving vulnerable groups (e.g. mental patients, prisoners, children);
- research involving sensitive topics - for example participants' sexual behaviour or orientation, their illegal or political behaviour, their experience of violence, their abuse or exploitation, their mental health, or their gender or ethnic status;
- research involving groups where permission of a gatekeeper is normally required for initial access to members - for example, ethnic or cultural groups, native peoples or indigenous communities;
- research involving deception or which is conducted without participants' full and informed consent at the time the study is carried out;
- research involving access to records of personal or confidential information, including genetic or other biological information, concerning identifiable individuals;
- research which could induce psychological stress, anxiety or humiliation or cause more than minimal pain;
- research involving intrusive interventions - for example, the administration of drugs or other substances, vigorous physical exercise, or techniques such as hypnotherapy. Participants would not normally encounter such interventions, which may cause them to reveal information which causes concern, in the course of their everyday life.