Pre-screening and Recruitment

It’s always nice when prospective subjects contact you to participate in research, but how much information can we really collect from them prior to obtaining consent?

Remember that only those individuals with a direct patient care relationship may approach a potential subject to inform them about a study opportunity, but this changes when a potential subject reaches out to the study contact to express an interest in a study. When a potential participant calls after seeing a flyer for recruitment, study approved research personnel may collect eligibility information from the prospective subject as long as:

- The IRB has approved the study’s recruitment plan
- There is a partial waiver of authorization permitting personnel to collect the person’s contact and screening information without written authorization
- The screening information does not involve any additional collection of information aside from contact information and inclusion/exclusion criteria submitted on the IRB application
- The PI or research team must receive the follow-up written Authorization before they may use the information for research

On another note, if additional materials are going to be provided to the potential subject after they contact the study team then the study application should clearly state that contact information will be collected solely for the purposes of sending approved recruitment material, and that recruitment may involve mail or telephone contact.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to reach out to your Research Compliance Unit.

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