

# Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP)

## 1. What is AAHRPP?

The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP) promotes high quality research through an accreditation process that helps organizations worldwide strengthen their human subjects protection programs (HSPPs). AAHRPP adopts a voluntary, peer-driven, educational model to ensure that HSPPs meet rigorous standards for quality and protection. To earn accreditation, organizations must provide tangible evidence—through policies, procedures, and practices—of their commitment to scientifically and ethically sound research and to continuous improvement.



More information about AAHRPP can be found at [www.aahrpp.org](http://www.aahrpp.org).

## 2. Why Is Re-Accreditation Of The Human Subjects Protection Program (HSPP) Important For NHG, AH And NUHS?

NHG, AH and NUHS achieved accreditation in March 2007. Being the first public healthcare institutions outside of North America to be awarded full accreditation was a remarkable achievement. Accreditation assured a robust human research protection program, regulatory compliance, and built public trust in our research institutions. Accreditation is an important approach to ensure that human subjects are protected while encouraging researchers to engage in innovative research.

In March 2010, NHG, AH and NUHS would be going for the re-accreditation, which is an excellent international platform to further demonstrate the institutions' continuous commitment in pursuing scientifically and ethically sound research within the institutions. The re-accreditation site visit will be conducted in January 2010.

## 3. What Is NHG Human Subjects Protection Program (HSPP) And Does Your Research Fall Under The Program?

The NHG HSPP aims to promote high quality and ethical research, and to ensure protection of human subjects participating in research in NHG institutions, AH and NUHS. The NHG HSPP covers all human subjects' research involving patients, staff, premises, or facilities of NHG, AH, NUHS. Such researches are under the ethical oversight of the NHG Domain Specific Review Board (DSRB), and NHG Research Quality Assurance program. Human subjects' protection is a shared responsibility and all parties engaged in human subjects' research play important roles, including investigators, the institution, DSRBs, Sponsors as well as research participants.

# Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP)

## 4. Who Will Be Involved In The AAHRPP Re-Accreditation Site Visit?

Individuals who are involved in human subject research at institutions under the oversight of NHG DSRB, in various roles, including governance of research, conduct of research, and administration of research will be involved in the site visit.

AAHRPP will choose individuals for a face-to-face interview, closer to the site visit. Individuals who will be interviewed include DSRB chairs, members, staff, research investigators and research team member. Site visitors also interview key organizational officials - CEO, the Chairmen Medical Boards, the Directors of Research, Managers of research offices, those who review contracts, and those who provide legal advice.

## 5. If you are interviewed, what types of questions will they ask?

The content of the site visit is not based on specific research protocols, but on how the protection of human research subjects at our site is accomplished. The site visitors will ask questions to determine whether compliance and education programs are in accordance with accreditation standards and principles, such as the researchers understanding of the principles of research ethics, research governance, institutional policies for conduct of research etc.

## 6. How should you prepare for it?

You should be familiar with your research responsibilities and DSRB's ethical requirements and guidelines. You should also be familiar with general principles of research ethics, research governance, and institutional policies for the conduct of research etc. You are encouraged to refer to the revised *NHG DSRB Investigator Manual* and the NHG *Proper Conduct of Research SOPs*, and many other useful reading materials available at [www.b2bresearch.nhg.com.sg](http://www.b2bresearch.nhg.com.sg). Alternatively, you may contact your research offices for the relevant materials.

## 7. Who can you contact for more information about the Re-accreditation process and site visit?

**NHG Research & Development Office**

**@ 6471 3266 / [rdo-qa@nhg.com.sg](mailto:rdo-qa@nhg.com.sg)**