

Scientific Integrity Principles:

Mini Case Study Examples

Case Study 1:

A member of the School Nutrition Services DPG (42) wants to conduct a survey of members to determine the number of school districts across the country that employ chefs. The data will be included in a presentation for the ANC School Nutrition conference. Would an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval be required? The DPG member proposing the survey works for a state department of education in a child nutrition program. How could IRB permission be obtained?

Answer: The member should start with their school district to see if they have a policy on conducting research. If a document does not exist, the member could look to the Education Department within them to see if they have an IRB. If not, an external, commercial IRB could be used.

Case Study 2:

A state association awards funding on a competitive basis to a graduate student completing a masters or doctoral program for research. An attached application is used by the committee. Does this meet the required Academy guidelines?

Answer: Yes, it meets the Academy guidelines as research. The graduate student along with their mentor needs to submit the project to their institutions IRB board for approval.

Case Study 3:

The Nutrition Entrepreneurs Dietetic Practice Group has a research grant for which members apply. Members are asked to address whether they need IRB approval. A member who works at University A plans to submit a proposal that involves humans. The member plans to present the results from this study at future meetings as well as publish it. Does the member need IRB approval?

Answer: Yes, the member needs IRB approval from their University IRB Board.

Case Study 4:

The Research Dietetic Practice Group is doing a survey of its members that it wants to publish in a peer reviewed journal. Does this constitute research and if so, does it require IRB approval?

Answer: This is considered research and would require IRB approval. The lead member conducting the survey would need to seek IRB approval from their institution.

Case Study 5:

A DPG/MIG is doing a survey of its members to inform the DPG/MIG programming and not contribute to generalized knowledge. The survey will be used internally only. Do they need to seek IRB approval?

Answer: No. If the results are not intended for publication, will not advance work in another area, and will not contribute to generalizable knowledge, IRB approval is not required.