Research involving institutionalized and special populations in health care-related settings is not eligible for review at the Exempt level by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at UNH. Such research may be considered for Expedited level review or may require Full Board review at a convened meeting of the IRB, depending upon the nature of the proposed research and the specific population(s) involved.

With respect to research involving children, prisoners, and protected health information, federal regulations supersede all other guidelines.

When UNH researchers access and use protected health information maintained by covered health care entities, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Act (45 CFR 160 and 164) identifies additional requirements. The UNH IRB encourages researchers to consult with the Board to address these requirements. In most situations, researchers must either obtain written authorization from each subject for use or disclosure of his/her protected health information, or get approval of a waiver of authorization from the appropriate IRB(s). In other specified research activities involving use or disclosure of protected health information, researchers do not have to obtain written authorization but have to fulfill other requirements. The authorization requirement is in addition to human subject protections regulations requiring informed consent to participate in a research study.

Health care institutions are not part of the UNH community; hence, researchers must provide a letter to the IRB in which the cooperating institution agrees to allow the proposed research to be conducted. In the case of most health care institutions, such an agreement would involve the protocol being reviewed by that institution's IRB. In situations where the cooperating institution may not have such a body, it may agree to abide by the UNH IRB's decision.