

## Staff Response to Requests for Northern Health Participation in Research

Institutions and organizations interested in using Northern Health patients, clients, staff, and information as part of their research project often approach Northern Health employees. Northern Health staff should refer to and follow Northern Health's policy and principles when fielding and assessing such inquiries. It is acceptable and advised to request from the researcher a copy of the study proposal, if the project has progressed to this stage.

Important points to iterate when being contacted:

- Initial project or proposal planning and/or discussions by Northern Health employees are not to be interpreted as approval of the project or proposal or confirmation of Northern Health participation or partnership. It would be important to iterate this to the organization and contact person at the outset.
- All research projects must undergo a review by the Northern Health Research Review Committee (RRC). Information about the RRC and the relevant policy, guidelines and forms (to be completed by the researcher) can be found at <https://www.northernhealth.ca/for-health-professionals/research/nh-research-review-committee>. The researcher must obtain operational approval from the Manager or Director in the hospital department or community site that the research project will impact. This is demonstrated by the Manager's name and signature on the operational application form. For more information, refer to the Applications Guidelines. It would be important to iterate this to the organization and contact person at the outset and to refer the researcher to the Northern Health Research Department for contact information for Managers.
- Pursuing clarification on whether or not the research project or proposal meets Northern Health's Research Policy is encouraged in order to gain a better understanding of the research.

Items for Northern Health employees to consider prior to participating in a research project:

- Confirm that the researcher has obtained Northern Health operational approval from your department's Manager AND ethics approval.
- Participation in the research project is voluntary (i.e. it is not mandatory or a condition of your employment).
- You may be asked to sign a Consent form.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact [researchcommittee@northernhealth.ca](mailto:researchcommittee@northernhealth.ca).