

## VII. Tips for Expedited Research

This chapter provides information to assist researchers in determining if their research requires an expedited IREC review. **In order for research to qualify for expedited review it must first be determined that the research is no greater than minimal risk to subjects. Note: Expedited Review is a type of IREC review.**

Minimal risk means “that the probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater in and of themselves than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests”.

The United States federal regulations allow for nine expedited review categories (See [Chapter V](#)). Designation of a study as expedited research categories is sometimes a judgment call rather than a hard line regulatory decision. These decisions become clearer with experience and dialogue with others. The following section has been designed to help investigators reflect on the distinction between expedited and exempt studies.

First, look at the abstract and methodology and determine if it meets the IREC definition of both human subject and research. If the project does not meet both, then it is Not Human Subjects Research (NHSR).

If neither of the two descriptions above fit the project, look at the six exemption categories in [Chapter V](#) and reflect on which category the project fits.

If the “expedited review” category seems to fit the project, consider the following questions:

- Will vulnerable subjects be used, such as children or prisoners?
- Will the investigator collect sensitive/private information and keep identifiers or have access to them?
- Is there risk to participants from the information being collected that could potentially be greater than minimal risk?

If the answer to any of these questions is “yes”, then the project **may not be Expedited** and may require **Full Board** IREC review. If the risk to subjects is greater than minimal risk, the study must be approved at a convened meeting of the IREC.