Federal Human Subjects Protection Final Rule Published

After five years of effort, federal agencies have published the final rules for the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, also known as the Common Rule. The new rule was published on January 19, 2017, with most changes going into effect one year later on January 19, 2018.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the federal Office for Human Research Protections received more than 2,100 public comments on the plan since it was announced in 2011. Some of the major changes to the Final Rule from the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), published in 2015, include not imposing the restrictions on the use of nonidentified biospecimens and requiring single IRB review of human protections in studies occurring at multiple sites, except under limited specifics.

Additional major changes are provided on the OVCR website at research.wustl.edu/Resources/CommonRule.

The full text of the final rule can be viewed on the Federal Register website at federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/19/2017-01058/federal-policy-for-the-protection-of-human-subjects.

Thank you to the members of the Washington University community who helped inform our institutional response and/or responded as an individual.

Please email ovcrinfo@wustl.edu with any questions.