



## Research Ethics Board

### BCIT REB Statement on Minimal Risk

#### Background

Minimal risk is defined in [BCIT Procedure 6500-PR1 Research Ethics for Human Participants - Process](#) in Section 1.2 using the TCPS2 definition of minimal risk.

#### Definition

The BCIT Research Ethics for Human Participants states in its background section that the BCIT REB shall apply the principles set out in the [TCPS2 \(Tri - Council Policy Statement "Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans"\)](#).

The TCPS2 defines: "Minimal risk" as research in which the probability and magnitude of possible harms implied by participation in the research is no greater than those encountered by participants in those aspects of their everyday life that relate to the research.

#### Implications for Researchers

It is the responsibility of the researchers submitting applications to the REB for approval to make and defend statements about risks associated with their research. The REB may disagree with the researcher's perspective on the degree of risk associated with any research application that is being reviewed. In that case, the research application will not be approved until the REB is satisfied that the degree of risk that is posed by the research is clearly disclosed and the human participant agrees to accept the risk that exists through their participation in the research.

#### Balance of Harms and Benefits

Researchers who apply for ethical approval for their research should be aware that the REB will be sensitive to research procedures which appear to benefit the research to the detriment of the human participant. The REB recognizes the need to minimize harms and to ensure that any harms are proportionate to the benefits that might be expected from the knowledge gained from the study.

#### Policy Applications of Minimal Risk.

The above definition of minimal risk will be applied at all times when the REB considers applications for ethical approval.