

External View Access to the IRISS System

To assist researchers whose studies also require approvals from Alberta Health Services (AHS) or Covenant Health for the use of their resources for research purposes (e.g., facilities, equipment, staff, patients or their records and systems), the Health Research Ethics Board of Alberta (HREBA) at Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions (AIHS) is allowing AHS and Covenant Health access to the IRISS system. Access is being granted in order to facilitate applicable organizational approvals. This new agreement will streamline processes and eliminate duplications, resulting in greater efficiencies. **Please note this does not apply to purchasing AHS lab services for study purposes, as there are separate service provider agreements that are to be completed.**

If selected by the Principle Investigator (PI) in Question 2.0 of the Impact and Operational Approvals section of the IRISS application form, AHS and Covenant Health designates will have the ability to view all sections of the ethics application, as well as documents approved by HREBA. AHS and Covenant Health designates will also receive notifications of initial submissions, modifications, renewals and expiries for these selected files.

It is therefore important that ethics applications be carefully completed and that all supporting documents are attached in the proper sections of the Documentation Page (i.e. all informed consent forms in section 3.0, all subject material in section 5.0, all contracts, budgets and service provider agreements in section 11.0, etc.). AHS/Covenant Health will not have access to section 11.0 in the Documentation Page. If documents are uploaded in the wrong sections, committee administrators will return applications to the study teams requesting revisions.

This new feature will go live on **May 2nd, 2016**.

If you have questions or concerns about the External View Access feature, completion of the IRISS application, or the attachment of documents, please contact Marcia Escaravage in the HREBA research ethics office at 780-429-7654 or marcia.escaravage@aihealthsolutions.ca.

Questions about AHS approvals should be directed to Cindy Gerdes, Sr. Consultant Research Operations, Alberta Health Services (cindy.gerdes@ahs.ca)

Questions about Covenant Health approvals should be directed to Mary-Ann Clarkes, Manager, Covenant Health Research Centre (mary-ann.clarkes@covenanthealth.ca).