

HAC Policies and Procedures

Illiterate Persons

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Can Illiterate Subjects Participate In Research?

Illiterate persons who understand English may have the informed consent document read to them and must then indicate consent to participate by placing an X on the signature line as required by Georgia law. Documentation that the subject cannot read or write must be written on the consent document and in the source documents.

Can Subjects Be Excluded From The Study If They Are Illiterate?

Individuals may not be excluded from the study based on their inability to read or write.

Will The HAC Require Any Additional Safeguards For Illiterate Subjects?

Additional safeguards may be requested by the HAC to avoid undue influence and coercion. There are specific requirements and exceptions to the consent requirements in these situations and the research team should contact the HAC Administrative Office.

Who Do I Contact if I Have Any Questions?

For additional guidance, contact the HAC Administrative Office at HAC@mcg.edu or call the following extensions:

(706) 721-8397 for PIs whose last names begin with A-G

(706) 721-3110 for PIs whose last names begin with H-P

(706) 721-1482 for PIs whose last names begin with Q-Z

Although the above listing indicates the staff's primary PI assignments, all HAC Administrative Office staff can answer your questions. There may be situations when your questions may require consultation with the HAC or OHRP leadership.