

**HAC Policies and Procedures**

**Vulnerable Subjects**

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### **Vulnerable Subjects**

This section provides information regarding additional protections to vulnerable populations participating in research reviewed by the Human Assurance Committee (HAC).

#### **What Is A Vulnerable Subject Or Vulnerable Population?**

The HAC considers the following to be vulnerable subjects or vulnerable populations:

- Children
- Cognitively impaired
- Non-English Speakers
- Illiterate Subjects
- Prisoners
- Pregnant Women

The Augusta VAMC may have additional categories of vulnerable subjects. For more information on their requirements, please see the Augusta VAMC section.

#### **Are these the only vulnerable subject or vulnerable population noted?**

Currently, yes. However, as research changes over time, these may need to be revised. The HAC may request additional safeguards to avoid undue influence and coercion of vulnerable subjects. There are specific requirements and exceptions to the consent requirements in specific situations and the research team should contact the HAC Administrative Office.

#### **Are There Specific Guidelines For Each?**

Yes. Click for additional information and guidance.