**Routes to Ethical Approval for Health Related Research Projects**

1. **Does your research involve patients, human tissue or identifiable patient data?**
   - **YES**
     - If your research involves the NHS then IRAS/NRES ethical approval is needed. Details can be found at: [http://www.imperial.ac.uk/joint-research-compliance-office/project-planning/ethics-approval/nhs-rec-approval-process/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/joint-research-compliance-office/project-planning/ethics-approval/nhs-rec-approval-process/)
     - **IRAS/NRES &/or R&D approval**
   - **NO**
2. **Does your research involve the NHS &/or hospital staff or premises?**
   - **YES**
     - If your research involves NHS staff or premises but NOT patients, their data or tissues it does not need IRAS/NRES ethical approval. However you will need to get R&D approval at each site involved. You should contact the sites for their local procedures. For Imperial sites details can be found at: [http://www.imperial.ac.uk/joint-research-compliance-office/project-planning/sponsorship/trust-sponsorship/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/joint-research-compliance-office/project-planning/sponsorship/trust-sponsorship/)
     - **R&D approval**
   - **NO**
3. **Will you recruit Imperial College Medical students as research subjects?**
   - **YES**
     - If your research involves Imperial College Medical students MEEC ethical approval is needed. Details can be found at: [http://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/people/meru/medical-education-ethics-committee/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/people/meru/medical-education-ethics-committee/)
     - **MEEC approval**
   - **NO**
4. **Does your research involve humans (outside of the NHS Ethics remit)?**
   - **YES**
     - If your research is taking place at Imperial or overseas and Imperial is the Sponsor you will need ICREC approval. Details can be found at: [http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-ethics-committee/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-ethics-committee/)
     - **ICREC approval**
   - **NO**
   - **If your research is ‘low risk’ educational research. The Imperial College EERP process is appropriate. Details at: [http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/support-for-staff/education-ethics/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/support-for-staff/education-ethics/)**
     - **EERP approval**