



## AMENDMENTS vs NEW APPLICATIONS

Making **substantial amendments** to your existing IRB application?  
A **new application** may be required instead!

Consider the **3Ps: PURPOSE, PROCEDURES, POPULATION**

	AMENDMENT	NEW APPLICATION
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Research question/ Study Aims have not changed.  <i>eg. Adding/ substituting one questionnaire with a similar one.</i>	New research question and new study aims were introduced.  <i>eg. To study the effects of sleep deprivation -&gt; caffeine intake on classroom focus.</i>
<b>PROCEDURES</b>	Procedures and interventions remain generally the same.  <i>eg. Adding/ substituting one questionnaire with a similar one.</i>	Procedures and interventions introduced are <b>significantly different</b> from existing ones.  <i>eg. survey + interview -&gt; MRI scan</i>
<b>POPULATION</b>	General target population remains the same.  <i>eg. Healthy adults 21 - 40 years old -&gt; Healthy adults 21 - 60 years old</i>	<b>Different</b> population being studied.  <i>eg. Healthy adults -&gt; Minors diagnosed with learning disorders.</i>

Where appropriate, IRB may request for a New Application to be raised instead.

[Visit our Guidelines to find out more!](#)

## CAN I OBTAIN IRB APPROVAL AFTER CONDUCTING MY RESEARCH?

NTU-IRB is unable to provide retrospective ethics approval for research already conducted.

**IRB APPROVAL MUST BE OBTAINED BEFOREHAND!**

**Why?**

Any recommended changes required by the IRB cannot be implemented retrospectively on research already conducted.

**PUBLISHERS ARE LIKELY TO REJECT MANUSCRIPTS WITHOUT PROPER ETHICS APPROVAL**

Case-studies from the international **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**:

1. Journals routinely ask for evidence of ethics approvals
2. Retrospective ethics approvals not allowed
3. Use of 'secondary data' requires ethics approval

[Visit our Guidelines to find out more!](#)



**Stay tuned for our next newsletter to learn more!**

To subscribe to our mailing list and for further queries, please write to [IRB@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:IRB@ntu.edu.sg)

Brought to you by: **Research Integrity and Ethics Office (RIEO)**

Refer to our website for more information on IRB Guidelines [here](#).