

# Memo

To: All OCREB-Affiliated Centres  
From: Ontario Cancer Research Ethics Board (OCREB)  
Date: January 11, 2012  
**RE: Departmental Approvers and Conflict of Interest (COI)**

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As per OCREB Conflict of Interest (COI) policy it would be a conflict of interest for a study investigator (PI) or sub-investigator/co-investigator also to be identified as the Department Approver for that study. For those studies in which a PI or sub-investigator/co-investigator is also identified as the department approver, an appropriate alternate signatory must be selected.

*Trust relationships that researchers hold with participants, research sponsors, institutions, professional bodies and society can be put at risk by conflicts of interest that may compromise independence, objectivity or ethical duties of loyalty. Pressures on researchers heighten concerns that conflicts of interest may affect ethical behavior. A researcher's conflict of interest may arise from interpersonal relationships (e.g., family or community relationships), academic interests, financial interests or other economic interests. (TCPS2 Chapter 7)*

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*The Ontario Cancer Research Ethics Board operates in compliance with and is constituted in accordance with the requirements of: The Second Edition of the Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2); The International Conference on Harmonization of Good Clinical Practices; Part C Division 5 of the Food and Drug Regulations of Health Canada; and the provisions of the Ontario Personal Health Information Protection Act 2004 and its applicable Regulations.*



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