RSPP/IRB Submission Review During the COVID-19 Emergency

As noted in COVID-19: Research Operations at Advocate Aurora Health, the Advocate Aurora Health Research Subject Protection Program (RSPP)/Institutional Review Board (IRB) remains committed to reviewing research applications submitted to our office during this health care emergency. In alignment with Advocate Aurora guidelines, the RSPP office is staffed remotely during this situation, but remains open and capable of conducting reviews of submitted actions.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the turnaround time for review/approval of non-priority submissions may require more time than usual. The RSPP is using the following criteria to determine which new applications are a priority and therefore receive immediate attention:

- Research/expanded access protocols related to COVID-19 (including single patient expanded access requests),
- Potentially therapeutic clinical trials, and
- Treatment protocols (HUDs and expanded access protocols).

We are also prioritizing changes to currently approved research as follows:

- COVID-related changes,
- Safety-related changes, and
- Modifications to therapeutic trials.

REMINDER: COVID-related changes in human subjects research overseen by an external IRB (e.g. WIRB, Advarra, etc.) should be directed to that external IRB and not the Advocate Aurora Health RSPP/IRB.

As is always our process, the RSPP office will make investigators/research teams aware when there are outstanding items or issues that will delay review of their submission. Remember that prior authorization from Advocate Aurora Health’s research institute is necessary to begin the RSPP’s review of new applications.

If urgent review of your submission is necessary, investigators and research teams are encouraged to contact the RSPP office:

- Wisconsin at irb.office@aah.org
- Illinois at jasmine.taylor2@advocatehealth.com

NOTE: New research studies approved by the IRB may not begin enrolling if they are prohibited from doing so under the current Advocate Aurora research restrictions.