

Institutional Ethics Committee

NIIT University

Preamble

The **Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC)** at NIIT University (NU) ensures ethical considerations in research and other activities involving chemicals, and bioethics. IEC at NU plays a significant role in overseeing and regulating the ethical implications of various projects and experiments. Scientific research at NU involves the collaboration and coordination of different individuals to achieve goals that have a positive impact on society and contribute to overall development in all areas. Research encompasses experimentation, data analysis, writing research papers and grant proposals, as well as educating future scientists. It is of utmost importance that research is conducted in an ethically correct manner. Guidelines for research ethics have been established to address the concerns of research institutions and individuals simultaneously. Adhering to this ethical guideline is essential to preserve the dignity, rights, and welfare of researchers and research participants.

The Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) at NIIT University plays a crucial role in ensuring the ethical handling of chemicals and bio-contaminants in research work. The committee follows specific guidelines and protocols to promote safety.

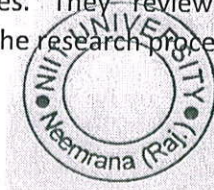
The key principles

- a. **Review and Approval:** The IEC reviews research proposals involving hazardous chemicals and bio-contaminants to assess their ethical implications. This includes evaluating the potential risks and benefits to participants, the environment, and the community.
- b. **Risk Assessment:** The IEC conducts a thorough risk assessment of the proposed research, considering the nature of the hazardous substances involved, their potential impact, and the measures in place to mitigate risks.
- c. **Informed Consent Process:** The IEC ensures that proper informed consent procedures are in place, emphasizing transparency and voluntary participation. Researchers are provided with comprehensive information about the potential risks and benefits associated with the research.
- d. **Safety Measures and Training:** The IEC ensures that researchers have the necessary training, knowledge, and access to personal protective equipment (PPE) to handle hazardous chemicals and bio-contaminants safely. Safety protocols, including proper handling, storage, and disposal, are strictly followed.
- e. **Ongoing Monitoring and Compliance:** The IEC conducts regular monitoring of research activities to ensure compliance with ethical guidelines. They review protocols, documentation, and safety measures implemented during the research process.



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- f. Reporting and Documentation: The IEC maintains thorough documentation of all research activities, including the handling of chemicals and bio-contaminants. This includes protocols, consent forms, safety measures, and any adverse events or incidents that occur during the research.
- g. Communication and Reporting: The IEC communicates its findings, recommendations, and decisions to researchers and relevant stakeholders. They provide guidance on any necessary adjustments or improvements to ensure the ethical handling of hazardous substances.

NIIT University's IEC ensures the ethical and responsible handling of hazardous chemicals and bio-contaminants in research work, safeguarding the well-being of participants, researchers, and the environment.

Review and Project Approval Protocol (SOP)

The Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) at NIIT University follows a comprehensive protocol for the review and approval of research projects. This ensures that all research conducted at the university upholds ethical standards and aligns with the principles of integrity, safety, and welfare of participants. The protocol details are given as under below:

- a. Submission of Research Proposal: Researchers submit their research proposals to the IEC, providing detailed information about the study objectives, methodology, potential risks and benefits, and the measures in place to protect participants and ensure ethical conduct.
- b. Initial Review: The IEC conducts an initial review of the research proposal to assess its alignment with ethical guidelines and regulatory requirements. This includes evaluating the scientific rationale, research design, participant recruitment, informed consent process, and potential risks to participants and other stakeholders.
- c. Ethical Considerations: The IEC carefully examines the ethical considerations of the proposed research, ensuring that it respects participants' autonomy, promotes beneficence, avoids harm (non-maleficence), and upholds principles of justice. Special attention is given to vulnerable populations, privacy protection, and confidentiality.
- d. Documentation and Informed Consent: The IEC reviews the documentation associated with the research, such as informed consent forms, information sheets, questionnaires, and interview protocols. They ensure that the documents are clear and comprehensive, and provide participants with adequate information to make an informed decision to participate.
- e. Project Approval: After addressing the concerns raised, the researcher makes the necessary revisions to the research proposal and submits it back to the IEC. Upon



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satisfactory resolution of any outstanding issues, the IEC grants project approval to proceed with the research.

- f. Ongoing Monitoring and Reporting: The IEC monitors the progress of approved research projects through regular reporting by researchers. The IQAC will conduct periodic reviews or audits to ensure ongoing compliance with ethical guidelines, addressing any emerging issues or concerns that may arise during the research.

The IEC at NIIT University ensures that all research conducted within the institution maintains the highest ethical standards, protecting the rights, safety, and well-being of participants and upholding the integrity of the research process.

1. Composition of Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC):

IEC at NU is a multidisciplinary group of experts responsible for reviewing and approving research projects and activities involving chemicals, and bioethics. The IEC of NU ensures that the research activities carried out by the faculty members, researchers, and students are compliant with the defined regulations of the University regarding research ethics and the protection of concerns in research.

The committee shall comprise of the following:

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| i. | President, NIIT University, Neemrana | Chairman |
| ii. | Dean Academics, NIIT University, Neemrana | Member |
| iii. | Dean of the concerned Area of the applicant | Member |
| iv. | Concerned Area Director | Member |
| v. | External Member as required (Nominated by the President) | Member |
| vi. | Dean Research | Convener |

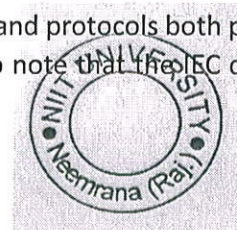
2. Role of the Institutional Ethics Committee

NIIT University recognizes the vital role of the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) in ensuring ethical research practices. IEC's mandate includes the approval of all proposals for hazardous chemicals in biomedical and health-related research. The IEC's primary objective is to safeguard the rights, safety, and general welfare of all research participants.

The IEC meticulously assesses proposed approaches and protocols to ensure compliance with the four fundamental principles of research ethics: autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice. Factors such as the informed consent process, risk-benefit ratio, burden and benefit allocation, and provisions for suitable compensations are thoroughly examined by the IEC, as deemed necessary.

3. Purpose of IEC

The IEC operates through documented procedures, reviewing proposals and protocols both prior to the initiation of the study and upon its completion. It is important to note that the IEC does



not assess or approve studies retrospectively, underscoring the significance of proactive ethical oversight throughout the research process.

Privacy documentation requirements are also reviewed to ensure the protection of confidentiality.

4. Public Engagement:

IEC encourages the involvement of the broader community to ensure that decisions reflect societal values.

5. Regular Review:

IEC undergoes periodic reviews and updates to align with changing ethical standards and advancements in research practices.

6. Conclusion:

At NU, it is essential to uphold the highest standards of ethical research practices, ensuring the integrity of research outcomes and the well-being of all involved. IEC is applicable in terms of size, scope of research, and applicable laws and regulations.



For, NIIT University-Neemrana



Date- October 06, 2021

