



Payments to Research Participants

ETSU recently posted policies (link below) about payments to research participants. The IRB has [posted guidance](#) to help researchers apply those policies in their studies that involve payment to participants. Some excerpts from the IRB guidance are included below.

PI Responsibilities

- a. Choose the appropriate payment method. If your study processes payments to participants through ETSU, see [FP-8 Sponsored Program Management Policy](#) for the different methods that are allowed.
- b. Ensure that your proposed payment plan will not be coercive or present an undue influence on potential participants. The payment must not be contingent upon the participant completing the entire study. The credit for payment must accrue as the study progresses.
- c. Clearly explain the following in your submission to the IRB:
 1. the amount of payment
 2. the proposed method (check, cash, traditional gift card, electronic gift card)
 3. the timing of payments to participants
 4. why you think the amount, method and timing are appropriate (see "b" above)

- d. Ensure that your Informed Consent Document (ICD) has the appropriate language before you submit it for IRB review. All information concerning payment, including the amount, method and schedule, must be included in the informed consent. Place this information in the section entitled "Compensation in the Form of Payments to Participants."
- e. If your study is subject to the HIPAA rules, be sure that your HIPAA Authorization lists who the information will be disclosed to for processing and, if applicable, for reporting the payment.
- f. Ensure the confidentiality of research participants. Personally identifiable information for receipt of payments for research participation should be gathered in a manner which prevents disclosure of personal information to other research participants, and should be stored securely in accordance with relevant policies.

To see the entire IRB guidance document, which includes some suggested language for consents, click [this link](#).

