

## IACUC Policy on Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC) 6/8/2020

References: Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare Guidance on Significant Changes to Animal Activities (NOT-OD-14-126); University of Montana VVC 03/08/2018; and Lab Animal: 46(3): March 2017 pp. 59-61.

### Policy

This policy on Veterinarian Verification and Consultation (VVC) is established to formally institute procedures that enable the programmatic Veterinarian to use professional judgement and consultation to authorize Principal Investigators (PI) to make specific qualifying and allowable significant changes or amendments to an already approved protocol; so long as such changes adhere to IACUC approved performance standards (SOPs) and guidelines. Using professional judgement and consultation with the PI, the Veterinarian affirms that the proposed changes comply with IACUC approved SOPs and guidelines and are appropriate for the animals for which the change is applicable. Performance standards consist of (1) various IACUC endorsed SOPs; (2) species specific pharmaceutical drug administration guidelines; and (3) current guidelines for euthanasia established by the American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA).

VVC cannot be used to approve protocol procedures not previously approved by the IACUC; wherein FCR (Full Committee Review) or DMR (Designated Member Review) is required. In implementing the VVC the Veterinarian charged with implementing the VVC, in consultation with the PI, affirms that the significant change is compatible with IACUC approval policy and is appropriate for the specific situation and animals.

### VVC eligible significant changes include:

Species specific changes in the anesthetic, analgesic or sedative drug used

Species specific changes in already approved anesthetic, analgesic or sedative drug dosages, such as route of administration, frequency of administration or duration of administration.

Changes in already approved experimental substance dosages, route of administration, frequency of administration or duration of administration so long as such change does not increase animal pain or distress.

Addition of a new experimental substance that does not change study objectives or increase animal pain or distress.

Change in euthanasia procedures to another so long as it is approved by the current AVMA guidelines on euthanasia.

Addition of the duration, frequency, type or number of procedures so long as they do not increase animal pain or distress and may be considered of lesser or comparable procedures when compared to already approved procedures. Examples include changes in blood collection (frequency, number of samples, collection interval, volume, site of collection); change in biopsy procedure; changes in imaging frequency or duration of sessions; changes in animal identification procedures; changes in animal behavior assessment methods; changes in approved animal enrichment; and changes in postoperative care.

Changes in species stock or strain so long as they do not result in increased animal morbidity or mortality.

**Procedures not eligible for approval via VVC include:**

Change from non-survival to survival surgery

Any change resulting in increased suffering, pain, distress or increased invasiveness.

Change in animal housing or use outside of the purview of the IACUC.

Change in study objectives

Change in Principal Investigator

Changes that impact personnel safety

Change in euthanasia that do not comply current the AVMA Guidelines

Addition of a procedure which IACUC deems to be new or a change in an already approved procedure that results in increased pain or distress.

**VVC Eligible Administrative Procedures:**

Submit the IACUC A Form as is required for significant protocol changes or amendments.

The IACUC Chair and the IACUC Administrator will notify the Programmatic/Attending Veterinarian/Backup Veterinarian that they have made a preliminary assessment and concluded that the protocol amendment is considered eligible for VVC. Upon receipt of the amendment the Veterinarian will indicate agreement with VVC designation or make a recommendation for FCR or DMR. If there is concurrence with the designation for VVC the Veterinarian will review and consult with the PI regarding the proposal amendment and notify the IACUC of recommended approval of the amendment or deferral to FCR or DMR. Example of listing:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE</li><li>Adequate Veterinary Care Revised 07282016</li><li>ANIMAL RELEASE AUTHORIZATION FORM FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ANIMALS</li><li>Animal Welfare Concern Whistleblower Poster 10232017</li><li>Animal_Holding_Policy_revised_10312017-Final</li><li>Assurance</li><li>CO2 euthanasia home cage Rev 07252016</li><li>Comment On Tissues Organs Parts from Dead Animals 04252016</li><li>Enrichment_SOP_112017</li><li>Feed &amp; Bedding Receipt and Storage Revised 07252016</li><li>FOOD_AND_WATER_RESTRICTION_POLICY_112017</li><li>Guideline 28-Rodent Identification Methods</li><li>Guidelines for the Genotyping of Mice and Rats</li><li>Handling and Restraint of Rats</li><li>HU IACUC Animal Holding Protocol Request Form 11162017</li><li>HU Whistleblowing Policy</li><li>IACUC POLICY ON FOOD AND WATER RESTRICTION 062018</li><li>IACUC POLICY ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS</li><li>IACUC_Pre-Application_Checklist_to_Expedite_The_Application_Process</li><li>PAM_11172017</li><li>Policy on Major and Minor Procedures</li><li>RODENT BLOOD COLLECTION GUIDELINES 10252017 for holding protocol 10262017</li><li>Rodent ID</li><li>Rodent_Surgical_Guidelines_2018</li><li>SOP Drug Storage</li><li>SOP Necropsy Cold Box and Carcass Freezer Procedures 11 2017</li><li>SOP_-_Mandatory_Online_Training_RECHECK</li><li>Transcardial perfusion 5-08</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>VS Animal Transfer Form 112017</li><li>VS-300-00 Cage Washer Safety-final</li><li>VS-601-01 Routine Animal Health Assessments</li><li>VS-605-00 General animal room cleaning and sanitation</li><li>Working instructions for IC Puncture Terminal Blood Collection in Mice and Rats</li><li>Working instructions for mouse restraint Rev 10302017</li><li>Working instructions for Room Decon</li><li>DRUG DOSAGE TABLES FOR VARIOUS SPECIES</li></ul>
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The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare website can be resourced for a copy of the 2020 AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia (<https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/2020-Euthanasia-Final-1-17-20.pdf>).