




# MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Institutions Enrolled in the NCI Initiative

**From:** Jeffrey Abrams, MD   
Associate Director, Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program  
Acting Director for Clinical Research, Division of Cancer Treatment  
and Diagnosis

**Date:** October 22, 2012

**Subject:** Pilot Study of CIRB Independent Model

The NCI has conducted a pilot study testing the feasibility of using an independent CIRB model to review local context considerations for enrolled institutions. This model differs from the current facilitated review model in which the local IRB conducts this local context review.

I am pleased to inform all institutions enrolled in the CIRB Initiative of the success of the pilot study and NCI's decision to fully implement the independent model. The pilot study has shown that the CIRB can add review of local context considerations to their current review of studies for participant protections without significantly adding to the burden of institutional staff or the CIRB members. Having the study review, and the review of local context considerations, done by a single CIRB clarifies the responsibilities of NCI's CIRB for institutions and their local IRBs, which we believe will help to encourage the usefulness of the CIRB.

The institutions participating in the pilot study will continue in the independent model. New institutions enrolling in the CIRB Initiative will enroll into the independent model. Currently enrolled institutions will be transitioned into the independent model within the next year. The CIRB Operations Office will be supplying information about the transition process to currently enrolled institutions within the next few weeks.

The willingness and cooperation of the 24 institutions participating in the pilot study is very much appreciated. The NCI has received positive and enthusiastic feedback about the independent model from the staff at these institutions and is confident that the independent model will be well received by the rest of the CIRB community.

If you have any questions, or wish to volunteer for the first wave of transitions, please email the CIRB Helpdesk at [ncicirbcontact@emmes.com](mailto:ncicirbcontact@emmes.com)