



**Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC) –
Standard Operating Procedures**

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1. Overview

Purpose

These procedures allow for certain significant changes to be preapproved by the IACUC and verified by the institution's Attending Veterinarian. This procedure will facilitate and expedite protocol revisions, improve compliance, and reduce the regulatory burden, while ensuring animal welfare.

Regulation

In August 2014, OLAW provided new guidance on Significant Changes to Animal Activities NOT-OD-14-126 in an effort to support the use of performance standards and professional judgment and to reduce regulatory burden. This guidance allows the veterinarian to administratively approve, as a subject matter expert, certain types of protocol changes outlined in detail below.

2. Procedures

All changes to approved procedures in an IACUC protocol must undergo appropriate review processes prior to implementing those changes. At Drexel University, the following significant changes to an IACUC protocol may be handled administratively without review by full committee or designated member review. The Drexel University Attending Veterinarian may administratively approve changes through Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC) only if the veterinarian verifies that the changes are consistent with the following:

- a. Changes in anesthesia, analgesia, or sedation to drugs and dosages as described in the ULAR "Drug Formulary of Anesthetic and Analgesic Agents for Laboratory Animals".
- b. Changes to euthanasia to any method acceptable or acceptable with conditions approved in the current AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals if those conditions and appropriate training requirements have been met.
- c. Changes in duration, frequency, type, or number of procedures performed on an animal which adhere to established procedures reviewed and approved by the IACUC. Significant changes regarding the duration, frequency, type, and number of procedures performed must not be new procedures that are added to the protocol. All new procedures must have IACUC approval through the full committee review (FCR) or designated member review (DMR) method.

The significant changes described above may be handled administratively according to IACUC-reviewed and approved procedures in consultation with a veterinarian authorized by the IACUC. The veterinarian is not conducting DMR but is serving as a subject matter expert to verify compliance with IACUC procedures. This VVC procedure does not supersede or affect the veterinarian's role to institute immediate medical actions or treatments which would relieve pain or distress to an animal, or to provide clinical care separate from the protocol.

To initiate the VVC process, the PI must complete an Amendment Form detailing the requested changes to the protocol and submit it to the IACUC office. If the amendment meets the criteria for the VVC process, the amendment request will be forwarded to the veterinarian. The veterinarian will verify to the IACUC office in writing that the changes meet the criteria set forth in this procedure. The veterinarian may refer any request to the IACUC for review for any reason and must refer any



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request that does not meet the parameters of this procedure. Amendments approved by this VVC procedure will be reported to the full IACUC at the next convened meeting.

3. Responsibilities

3.1 Drexel University IACUC Responsibilities

The Drexel University IACUC and the IACUC Office are responsible for maintaining this guidance document, training, and monitoring. All exceptions to this policy must be approved by the IACUC. For inquiries regarding these procedures, please contact the Director of Animal Welfare, a part of the Office for Research & Innovation (ORI), or the Attending Veterinarian

4. Revisions

Edition 001/Effective Date: 02/2017 – Original Document

Edition 001/Review Date: 06/2021

Edition 002/Revision Date: 9/11/2024 and Effective Date: 9/17/2024 – Revised Document

- Updated formatting to new template.