

## Women's Health Research - Guidelines for Researchers

If you are contemplating a research project which requires access to Women's Health patients (labour and delivery, antepartum, postpartum, gynecology, operating rooms and/or ambulatory care), their families or staff members of the Lois Hole Hospital for Women (LHHW) at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, the approval process is as follows:

1. Inform the Women's Health Research Committee (via one of the leads below) of your intent in writing, including a short summary in lay terms (max. 300 words) and a copy of your protocol. Include number to be enrolled, expected study start date and duration, recruitment strategies and expected Women's Health areas utilized.

Leads:

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Janie Clink, Executive Director, Women's Health –       | janie.clink@ahs.ca       |
| Radha Chari, Zone Clinical Department Head –            | radha.chari@ahs.ca       |
| Cheryl Lux-Warholik, Women's Health Unit Manager –      | cheryl.lux@ahs.ca        |
| Shauna Littlefair, Women's Health Research Coordinator- | shauna.littlefair@ahs.ca |

In order to prevent conflicts between research groups, and improve clarity and overall implementation of all projects, the Women's Health AHS operational approver (currently Janie Clink) may discuss any WH research requests conducted by groups outside of Women's Health Research with the WH research department prior to providing approval. This will assist in reducing confusion regarding bedside nurse communication of eligible patients, and research protocols with the appropriate research groups.

2. Discuss specifics and requirements with the Women's Health research nurses and/or Women's Health manager(s) while the study is in the design phase (if applicable).

|                   |                     |                          |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Fetal Cardiology: | Winnie Savard       | winnie.savard@ahs.ca     |
| Urogynecology:    | Shauna Littlefair - | shauna.littlefair@ahs.ca |
| OB/GYN, Perinatal | Shauna Littlefair - | shauna.littlefair@ahs.ca |

3. If deemed appropriate, it may be suggested that you present your preliminary study at OB/Gyne, Urogynecology or Perinatal rounds.

4. Your presented study must be approved by the Women's Health Research Committee prior to being given approval by the Executive Director of Women's Health or designate.

5. Prior to beginning research activities, WHR must have on file for reference copies of:

- Final protocol (updates as applicable)
- Operational Approval for Women's Health
- Ethics approval (if study duration > 1 year, ensure WHR has a copy of the current approval).
- Information and consent form (if applicable)

6. Inform WHR when the research project is amended, completed or withdrawn.