Recommendations for Investigators Conducting Research in Patient Care Areas

Below is a list of recommendations for investigators to ensure that research protocols are understood and followed by all individuals who may contribute to the conduct of research in patient care areas.

- Before initiating a study, investigators are advised to attend unit council and staff meetings and to conduct in-service training sessions in each participating unit/clinic at various times during a 24-hour period in an effort to accommodate shift routines and encourage attendance.

- Provide multifaceted and frequent education of staff nurses about the research protocol in each participating unit/clinic. This may include the production of a study video, flyers, and posters.

- Posters and flyers for each of the participating units/clinics should include investigator names and contact information announcing the start of the study.

- Keep staff engaged by periodically placing flyers with a study update (e.g. protocol modifications, recruitment rates, successes, challenges, and results when available) in each nurse’s mailbox and/or post flyers on the units.

- Investigators and research staff (e.g. those obtaining informed consent or performing study procedures) should communicate with nursing staff before approaching patients.

- Be aware of the culture and routine on each participating unit/clinic and ensure screening and recruitment strategies are tailored to these complex environments.

- Research team should maintain a consistent and regular presence on the unit.

- Ensure research protocols, consents and appropriate contacts are readily accessible in each participating unit/clinic.

- Acknowledge the contribution of clinical nurses to the conduct of the research study.