



**Institutional Review Board**  
**University of Missouri-Columbia**

Standard Operating Procedure
Subject Compensation

**Subject Compensation**

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*Michele Kennett*

Approved By: Michele Kennett, JD, MSN, LLM  
 Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

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**1.0 Purpose**

To aid in assuring knowledge and compliance of all persons involved in any aspect of human subject research by documenting the requirements for subject compensation.

**2.0 Scope**

The SOP applies to all human subject research falling under the purview of the University of Missouri Institutional Review Board.

**3.0 Policy/Procedure**

**General Information**

Although it is common, it is also not required for subjects to be compensated for reimbursement for time and/or expenses incurred as part of the research study. The IRB

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will determine on a case-by-case basis whether the amount of compensation is appropriate, and upon review may request changes in the amount or method of compensation. The IRB will consider:

- The amount of payment and the proposed method and timing of disbursement neither is coercive nor presents undue influence and is reflective of the degree of risk, inconvenience, or discomfort associated with participation.
- Credit for payment accrues as the study progresses and not be contingent upon the participant completing the entire study.
- Any amount paid as a bonus for completion is reasonable and not so large as to unduly induce participants to stay in the study when they would otherwise have withdrawn.
- All information concerning payment, including the amount and schedule of payments, is set forth in the consent document.

Compensation for participation in a trial offered by a sponsor to include a coupon good for a discount on the purchase price of the product once it has been approved for marketing is prohibited.

Per the IRB policy on recruitment, specific monetary amounts provided as compensation for participation may not be stated in the recruitment materials but should be set forth in the consent document. A statement that reimbursement/compensation is provided will be allowed but the specific dollar amount of said compensation is discouraged.

### **Finder's Fees and Bonus Payments**

University of Missouri IRB's do not permit the payment of finder's fees and / or bonus payments (monetary or in kind) in any form, due to the potential that such a practice could be perceived as coercive and bordering on unethical research subject recruitment. In addition, several professional associations and groups have stated that this practice is unethical (e.g., **AMA**, [APA](#)).

### **Accounting Approval**

The method of payment must be reviewed by the general accounting office in addition to IRB approval. See the Business Policy & Procedures Manual regarding the policy on participant compensation: [http://bppm.missouri.edu/chapter2/2\\_250.html](http://bppm.missouri.edu/chapter2/2_250.html). Studies involving compensation must have this approval prior to final IRB approval being given.

The investigators should notify the IRB office for any study which has compensation as part of the protocol of the requirement for accounting approval. The investigator will be responsible for communicating with the accounting office to obtain the necessary approval. Investigators will forward or upload their approval of the method of compensation. Once the approval from accounting is received, the IRB will move forward with final approval.

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