

# Responsibility of Researchers

## with respect to research ethics



1. WIN seeks to promote best practice in research ethics in all studies carried out at the Centre.
2. All scans done at WIN must be carried out with due attention to the appropriate ethical practices, whether that be CUREC or HRA/NHS ethics, or the technical development SOP.
3. The Principal Investigator who is named on the ethics application is primarily responsible for ensuring that all procedures carried out are in line with their protocol and ethical approval, and that all researchers with delegated responsibilities are appropriately trained and competent to carry out their tasks. WIN does not take on responsibility to check every detail.
4. The primary responsibility of the radiographer or scanner operator during scanning is to ensure the safe scanning of the participant. If the radiographer or scanner operator is not confident that the participant can be scanned safely they will decline to scan the participant.
5. In line with the guidance given in the HCPC Standard of Conduct, Performance and Ethics, radiographers or scanner operators should only scan when they have seen a signed consent form for that participant and that study. In the case of scans done under the technical development SOP this would be the signature on the participant's scanning log. This is their check that some form of ethics approval and consent process has been undertaken, however it remains the researchers', and ultimately the PI's responsibility to ensure that consent was appropriately given.
6. Recommended procedures and practices relating to MRI research can change over time, and radiographers and other centre staff are there to help with this. If current best practice changes then researchers should ensure that these new procedures are followed and, when necessary, ethics amendments made in a timely way.
7. If any researcher or centre member has concerns that best practice in research ethics is not being followed then they would take this up, in the first instance, with the PI. If concerns remain then the issue should be raised with the Centre Director and if necessary RGEA or CUREC.
8. As well as any auditing or checks that may be carried out by RGEA, CUREC or ethics committees, the centre will periodically carry out random checks on the site file of one study to ensure that proper procedures are being carried out. This includes correct forms being used, dates being appropriate, delegate logs being up-to-date and subject paperwork being in order.