

HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER  
Research Department Policy Manual

Name: IACUC Policy on Use of Hazardous Agents in Animals      Policy #: IACUC 124

Effective Date: 3/2013

Page 1 of 3

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**GENERAL**

**Purpose:** The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* states that "Each institution must establish and maintain an Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) as an essential part of the overall program of animal care and use. An effective OHSP requires coordination between the Research Department, the Animal Care and Use Program, the Occupational Health Department, and the HackensackUMC administration.

**Administration:** The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for the review and revision of this policy.

**Policy:** Every Principal Investigator (PI) using potentially hazardous agents is responsible for ensuring the safety of all personnel who may be exposed to those agents. The following requirements must be fulfilled before work with hazardous materials in animals may begin:

- The use of the hazardous agent in animals must be described in detail in the animal use protocol and reviewed and approved by the IACUC.
- A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the safe use and handling of carcinogens, toxins and other hazardous chemicals in animals must be included as part of the IACUC protocol record.
- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) review and approval is required for the use of: etiological/infectious agents; blood, tissue or cells of human or animals with zoonotic agents including established cell lines; recombinant DNA; and creation or cross-breeding of transgenic animals. In lieu of a separate SOP for biohazardous agents, the approved IBC protocol describing procedures for safely working with these agents in animals may be submitted to the IACUC as part of the protocol.
- Radiation Safety Committee review and approval is required for radiation producing instruments or radioactive substances. SOPs applicable to safely working with the radiation hazards in animals must be submitted as part of the IACUC protocol.
- The PI or a designee must notify appropriate animal care staff and laboratory staff prior to working with

hazardous agents in animals. Notification may be in the form of required cage cards, room signage, attendance of a Safety Considerations Meeting, or other methods as designated by Occupational Medicine, IBC and/or the IACUC.

Once the hazardous agent is in use in live animals; all primary animal enclosures (e.g. cages) must be appropriately labeled and all required signage posted in the vivarium housing room.

## **PROCEDURE**

Every PI using potentially hazardous agents is responsible for getting approval from IBC before final approval can be given to a protocol application. The PI must identify all hazardous agents to be used in live or euthanized animals in the IACUC protocol application. Depending on the type of agent, additional documentation will be required by the IACUC:

- A. Etiological agents, human blood, tissue, fluids or cells require review and approval by the IBC;
- B. Use of radiation-producing instruments or radioactive substances requires review and approval by the Radiation Safety Officer; and
- C. Use of carcinogens, toxins and other hazardous chemicals require submission of an approved SOP for the safe use and handling of the agent.

## **REFERENCES**

Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals:

National Institutes of Health, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare. Public Health Service: *Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (8/7/02). Section IV:

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Committee for the Update of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, Division on Earth and Life Studies, National Research Council of the National Academies. (c2011). Animal Care and Use Program. In *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chapter 2). Retrieved from:

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