

Clinical research ethics

All clinical trials, including AIDS vaccine trials, are carefully reviewed before they receive approval to start to ensure the studies are scientifically and ethically sound. AIDS vaccine trials follow strict international ethical guidelines, and are also evaluated by local review bodies. Review of the trials guarantees that each volunteer's health, human rights and well-being are protected. Examples include protection of confidentiality, the right to leave the trial at any time and non-coerced, fully informed consent. When someone is deciding whether or not to participate in a trial, that person must fully understand key information about the study in order to make an informed decision about participation. Participants must never be unfairly influenced to participate by anyone – friends, family or trial site staff.