

Department of  
Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date:

AUG 28 2019

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Discovery, Education, and Affiliate Networks (10X)

Subj: Restriction on Use of Fetal Tissue for All VHA Research Studies

To: Medical Center Directors and Associates Chiefs of Staff for Research (ACOS/R)

1. VHA Directive 1200.05, "Requirements for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research) was signed and published on January 7, 2019. The revised Directive 1200.05 lifted the long-standing prohibition regarding human fetal tissue (HFT) research within and supported by VHA, permitting the use of HFT as governed by the National Institute of Health's (NIH) policies for recipients of NIH research funding.

2. In accordance with the NIH's most recent Notice, "NOT-OD-19-128: Changes to NIH Requirements Regarding Proposed Human Fetal Tissue Research" released July 26, 2019, VHA is implementing a new overall restriction on the HFT policy. Effective immediately, no research using HFT can be supported by VHA or conducted by VA Investigators while on official VA duty, at VA facilities, or at VA-approved off-site facilities.

3. A review of VHA research has not revealed any ongoing or planned HFT research within VHA since the Directive 1200.05 was released in January 2019. If any HFT research is being supported or conducted by VHA, immediate reporting on the project is required to the VHA Chief Research and Development Officer (CRADO), Dr. Rachel Ramoni.



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