

Participatory Partnerships and Harmonization in BC: Developing the Provincial Research Ethics Platform (PREP)

Who is Research Ethics BC?

Research Ethics BC is one of three units of the BC Academic Health Science Network, along with the BC Support Unit and Clinical Trials BC.

Based on a collective governance model, REBC initially developed as a grassroots initiative by ethics administrators from BC's major health authorities and post-secondary institutions with the support from Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR). Built on the core principles of trust, respect, and reciprocity, the BC Ethics Harmonization Initiative (BCEHI) formed an Advisory Committee that successfully developed minimal and above minimal risk harmonization models.

Who are our Partners?

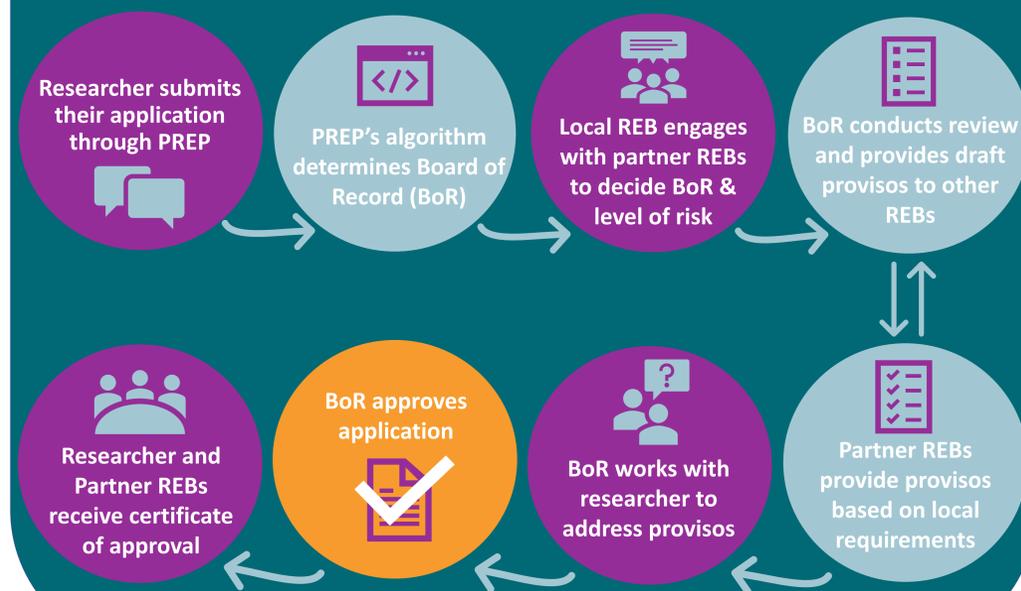


Presently we include the following institutions and health authorities:

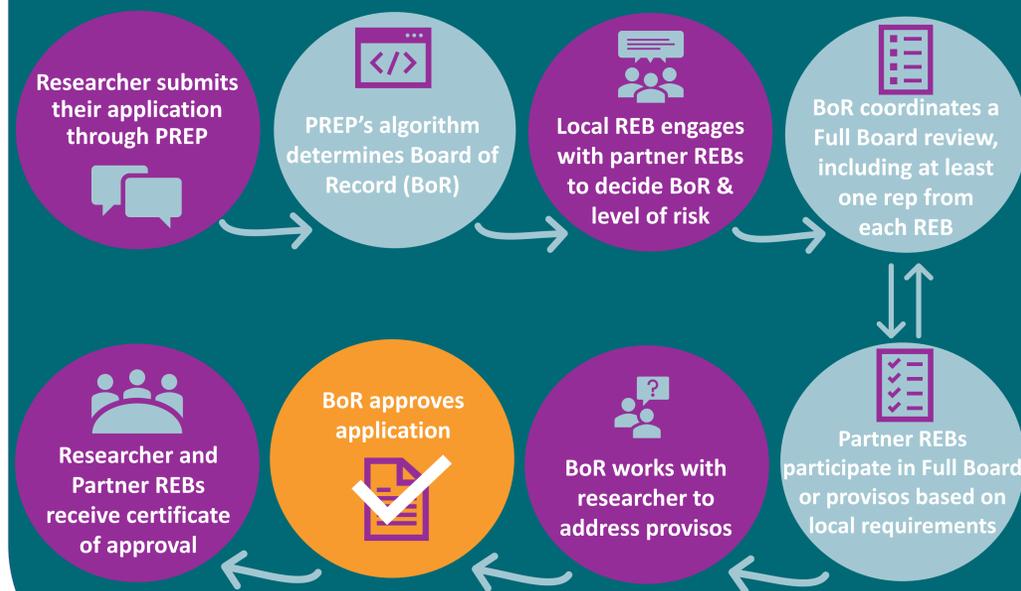
University of British Columbia,
Simon Fraser University,
University of Northern BC,
University of Victoria,
Island Health,
Vancouver Coastal Health,

Fraser Health,
Northern Health,
Interior Health
BC Cancer,
BC Children's Hospital,
BC Women's Hospital,
Providence Health Care

REBC Harmonization Model Minimal Risk



REBC Harmonization Model Above Minimal Risk



Provincial Research Ethics Platform (PREP)

REBC's harmonized minimal and above minimal risk models have been automated into an online system called the Provincial Research Ethics Platform (PREP).

This new online platform hosted on UBC's RISE, enables effective ethical review of multi-jurisdictional studies that require human research ethics approval from more than one of the participating institutions and health authorities in British Columbia.



A total of 555 new harmonized studies and post-approval activities were initiated within the first 3 months of PREP launching.

650 multi-jurisdictional ethics applications have been harmonized through PREP

To facilitate this transition into a new platform, Research Ethics BC has held a number of PREP training sessions for partner REB administrators and board members across the province.

An additional four new partners will be joining REBC this year. The support and commitment to participatory partnerships that respect the autonomy of each REB by our participating institutions has been successful in opening up the ethics process for effective and harmonized review.

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