



Health Sciences and Affiliated Teaching Hospitals Research Ethics Board (HSREB) Guidelines for Breaking Participant Confidentiality

Per the latest edition of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS2, 2014):

“**Article 5.1** Researchers shall safeguard information entrusted to them and not misuse or wrongfully disclose it. Institutions shall support their researchers in maintaining promises of confidentiality.”

“**Application:** The ethical duty of confidentiality must, at times, be balanced against competing ethical considerations or legal or professional requirements that call for disclosure of information obtained or created in a research context.”

The Office of Research Ethics must be informed when researchers breach participant confidentiality in accordance with Article 5.1. These breaches of confidentiality need to be detailed on a Local Adverse Event Form within three business days of the breach.