Is the activity a systematic (methodical in procedure or plan; marked by thoroughness and regularity; consistency on data points being collected) investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge (i.e., designed to draw general conclusions or to infer beyond a smaller collection of facts/data)?

No

Activity is not research, so no IRB approval is needed.

Yes

Activity is research. Does the research involve obtaining, using, studying or generating information or biospecimens about living individuals?

No

This research does not involve human subjects, so no IRB approval is needed.

Yes

Does the research involve intervention or interaction with the individuals?

No

Is the information individually identifiable (i.e., the identity of the subject is or may readily be ascertained by the investigator or associated with the information)?

No

Yes

Activity is research involving human subjects. IRB approval is required.

Yes

Is the information private? (About behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place, or provided for specific purposes by an individual and which the individual can reasonably expect will not be made public).

***Although a study may not require IRB approval, other federal, state and local laws and/or regulations may apply to the activity. Please contact the University and Medical Center Institutional Review Board (UMCIRB) at 252-744-2914 or umcirb@ecu.edu if there are any questions or for further guidance.