ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Electronic communication systems may be used to conduct some IACUC functions. [2.31(d)(2)]

IACUC Meetings

IACUC meetings must allow members to be in direct communication to consider, deliberate, and vote on areas of their responsibility. This is traditionally done by face-to-face meetings.

In exceptional circumstances, the IACUC may conduct its activities using electronic systems which allow all members to be in direct communication, such as:

- conference calls
- audio-visual conferencing
- highly interactive on-line computer discussion groups

All activities conducted via electronic communication must be documented in writing and original signatures obtained when required.

Fax, e-mail or one-on-one communication via telephone is **not** an acceptable method for conducting IACUC functions which require a convened meeting, such as:

- protocol review
- approving a protocol
- review and endorsement of semi-annual program review and facility inspection reports being sent to the Institutional Official
- suspension of an activity

Distribution of Information

Fax or e-mail is an acceptable method for the receipt or distribution of information by the IACUC, such as:

- protocols from principal investigators
- proposed changes to approved protocols from principal investigators
- meeting notifications
- agendas
- meeting handouts

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- protocols/changes to protocols to IACUC members
- request for a full committee review of a protocol
- minutes of meetings
- correspondence
- reports
- standard operating procedures (SOPs)

18.8.2 ANIMAL CARE