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Note: Anonymity of participants and/or confidentiality of data are often laudable goals but it is not always possible or appropriate in all types of research. In fact, there are limits to confidentiality as described in the TCPS 2; in some traditions, these notions are considered inappropriate. Consider whether this is a desirable goal and, if so, the extent to which your methods allow you to keep the promises being made. Ensure that the consent process includes an accurate description of these concepts and the ability of your study to fulfill any promises to participants. Consider the use of pseudonyms and/or linkages, labels, generic aggregates, (Example: "a small town in northern Newfoundland") and consider who may access the data.

Significance:

Informed consent is an on-going process that starts with the researcher's first contact with an individual and continues until study completion. Although written consent is a common means of demonstrating and documenting consent, in some research also mandatory by regulators, many disciplines and cultures do not accept written consent as appropriate. In either procedure, researchers shall provide full disclosure about the research so prospective participants can make a fully informed decision about their involvement.

The TCPS 2 reference for the requirements is TCPS 2, Article. 3.2. Consent Shall Be Informed. The official version of the TCPS is the online version at <https://ethics.gc.ca/>

To assist with drafting, the requirements, of the TCPS 2, Article 3.2, are listed below. Use this list to verify (a - k) all that have been incorporated in the research.

To understand specific language more closely, the the TCPS provides a "Glossary". In example, to get a better sense of the meaning of "directly" and "indirectly" identifying information (review Glossary: "Information Types").

