



Research Involving Neonates Position Statement

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COINN (Council of International Neonatal Nurses, Inc) acknowledges that limited resources and/or personnel may restrict opportunities to implement the recommendations and action points. To improve health outcomes, the global neonatal care community must strive to uphold these recommendations. This position statement is applicable to any healthcare professional caring for the small and sick newborns and their families.

SUMMARY

COINN supports the Declaration of Helsinki (World Medical Association, 2013) agreement that states neonates belong to a vulnerable group and therefore encourage research to be conducted only if it benefits the neonates. Surrogates (parents / legal guardians) should give informed and voluntary consent on behalf of the neonates. All research must be approved by an appropriate ethical committee for the protection of the neonates and families.

BACKGROUND AND FACTORS

International collaboration to improve healthcare outcomes and safe practices for neonates and their families is encouraged through high quality and ethical research that informs clinical practice, education, and policy development.

Research should benefit the neonates, and their unique needs should be respected. The role of the parents/legal guardians should be recognised in giving informed consent to ensure the best interest of the neonates.

COINN RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION POINTS:

1. Research involving neonates must be conducted in an ethical and morally appropriate manner.
2. Research should be high quality and beneficial to neonates.
3. International collaboration in research should be encouraged to improve neonatal outcomes.
4. Research findings should be integrated into clinical practice, education programs and health care policy.

REFERENCE

World Medical Association. (2013). World Medical Association declaration of Helsinki: Ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects. JAMA. Retrieved from <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/1760318>.

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