

# Frequently Asked Questions: BRANY IRB as the CIRB for the Virtual Pooled Registry Cancer Linkage System (VPR-CLS)

## 1. What is the VPR-CLS?

VPR-CLS stands for Virtual Pooled Registry Cancer Linkage System. The VPR-CLS is a secure online system that connects researchers with population-based cancer registries around the U.S. to facilitate minimal-risk linkages between the study data and individual registry data. These linkages allow researchers to identify and acquire cancer outcomes in an efficient, cost-effective manner. The VPR-CLS also streamlines the process of applying to each cancer registry for release of individual-level cancer data through the use of a standard application and incorporation of a Central IRB (CIRB) for multi-site registry studies.

## 2. Why use a CIRB? What is the benefit?

A CIRB submission allows for a single IRB submission to request cancer data from multiple registries rather than requiring completion of multiple submissions across registries. In addition, the CIRB review will alleviate the need for individual registry IRBs to review these minimal risk linkage studies. The CIRB will save time and resources for researchers, registries, and registry IRBs.

## 3. Why BRANY IRB?

BRANY IRB has extensive experience as a Central IRB. BRANY IRB has been fully accredited with AAHRPP (the Association for Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs) since 2006 and strives to streamline the IRB review process for VPR-CLS.

## 4. How do researchers submit a request to BRANY IRB?

To request access to the cancer registry data, researchers will use the TIRA (Templated IRB/Registry Application) to which they may already be accustomed. This standard application will be submitted via the VPR-CLS. BRANY IRB will access the TIRA and use this application for IRB review to avoid duplicate work on the researcher's part. No additional submission to BRANY IRB from the researcher will be required.

## 5. What will BRANY IRB be doing?

BRANY IRB will acquire the TIRA (Templated IRB/Registry Application) and complete the IRB review on behalf of all registries whose IRB agrees to leverage the BRANY IRB review process. The BRANY IRB review will focus on the registry linkage aspect of the study and the researcher will maintain an institutional IRB review for the overall study. The BRANY IRB approval letter will be uploaded into the

VPR-CLS and the requesting researcher and involved registries will be notified when complete. Registry IRBs will also be notified of the BRANY IRB approval.

## 6. Why has BRANY contacted me for a phone call with the Registry and the Registries IRB?

BRANY IRB team members are holding calls with all registries and their IRBs to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the process, needs, and requirements that are unique to your registry and its IRB. The goal is to establish the agreements needed to enable your registry to accept Central IRB review by BRANY IRB for multi-site registry studies.

## 7. Why does BRANY IRB collect local research context information?

We do this to understand local requirements unique to your registry's release of data for VPR-Cancer Linkage System requests. These local context requirements are accounted for during the BRANY IRB review process.

## 8. What is an IRB Authorization Agreement?

Also known as a Reliance Agreement, the IRB Authorization Agreement, or IAA, is an agreement which allows BRANY IRB to review VPR Linkage studies on behalf of your registry. We would like the IAA to be a blanket agreement that allows BRANY IRB to review all studies requesting linkage through the VPR Cancer Linkage System rather than having a separate agreement for each study. BRANY will provide a template to facilitate this arrangement.

## 9. Will there be any cost to use the CIRB?

No, there is no cost to the registry for relying on BRANY IRB for studies going through the VPR.

## 10. Whom do I contact at BRANY with additional questions?

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