

Annexure XVIII  
**Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Document for IEC Members**  
**INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE**  
**HM PATEL CENTER FOR MEDICAL CARE AND EDUCATION, KARAMSAD**

In recognition of the fact, that I, (name and designation).....

.....

herein referred to as the —Undersigned, have been appointed as a member of the Institutional Ethics Committee, HM Patel Center for Medical Care and Education (IEC), would be asked to assess research studies involving human subjects in order to ensure that they are conducted in a humane and ethical manner, with the highest standards of care according to the applied national, local regulations, institutional policies and guidelines.

The IEC must meet the highest ethical standards in order to merit the trust and confidence of the communities in the protection of the rights and well - being of human subjects. The undersigned, as a member of the IEC is expected to meet the same high standards of ethical behavior to carry out its mandate.

This Agreement thus encompasses any information deemed Confidential or Proprietary provided to the Undersigned in conjunction with the duties as a member of the IEC. Any written information provided to the Undersigned that is of a Confidential, Proprietary, or Privileged nature shall be identified accordingly.

As such, the Undersigned agrees to hold all Confidential or Proprietary trade secrets (—information) in trust or confidence and agrees that it shall be used only for contemplated purposes, shall not be used for any other purpose or disclosed to any third party. Written Confidential information provided for review shall not be copied or retained. All Confidential information (and any copies and notes thereof) shall remain the sole property of the IEC. The Undersigned agrees not to disclose or utilize, directly or indirectly, any Confidential or Proprietary information belonging to a third party in fulfilling this agreement. Furthermore, the Undersigned confirms that the performance of this agreement is consistent with the Institute's policies and any contractual obligations they may have to third parties.

**Conflict of Interest**

It has been recognized that the potential for conflict of interest will always exist but I have faith in the IEC and its Chairperson to manage the conflict issues so that the ultimate outcome is the protection of human subjects. In accordance of the policy of the HREC, I shall not participate in the review, comment or approval of any activity in which I have a conflict of interest, except to provide information as requested by the IEC.

I will disclose to the Chairperson of the IEC any actual or potential conflict of interest that I may have in relation to any particular proposal submitted for review by the committee, and abstain from participation in discussions or recommendations in respect of such proposals.

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Examples of conflict of interest cases may be any of the following:

- A member is involved in a potentially competing research program.
- Access to funding or intellectual information may provide an unfair competitive advantage.
- A member's personal biases may interfere with his or her impartial judgment.

In the course of my activities as a member of the IEC, I may be provided with confidential information and documentation (—Confidential Information). I agree to take reasonable measures to protect the Confidential Information; subject to applicable legislation, including the access to it, as per the right to Information Act, not to disclose the Confidential Information to any person; not to use the Confidential Information for any purpose outside the Committee's mandate, and in particular, in a manner which would result in a benefit to myself or any third party; and to return all Confidential Information (including any agenda items) to the Bioethics cell upon termination of my functions as a Committee member.

Whenever I have a conflict of interest, I shall immediately inform the committee not to count me towards a quorum for consensus or voting.

I..... Have read and I accept the  
 aforementioned terms and conditions as explained in this Agreement.

	<b>Signature &amp; Date</b>
<b>Members Signature</b>	
<b>Chairperson's / Deputy Chairperson Signature</b>	
<b>I acknowledge that I have received a copy of this Agreement signed by the IEC Chairperson and me</b>	