



National Institutes of Health
Health Research Institute
National Bioethics Committee for Research (NBC-R)

Advisory

Subject: Requests for specific statements in NBC Approval Letters.

Dear Applicants,

The National Bioethics Committee (NBC) has been receiving several requests in which specific statements sometimes quoted verbatim i-e "subject/text instructed" have been requested for inclusion in NBC approval letters.

In this regard, we would like to clarify that NBC approval letters are issued in a standardized format, aligned with national ethical guidelines. While we fully understand that researchers may be required to share NBC approvals with funding agencies, journals, collaborating institutions, or other stakeholders, the wording and structure of NBC approval letters cannot be customized on request; except under special circumstances as determined by NBC.

Researchers are encouraged to use NBC approval letters as issued and to provide any additional explanations, where required, through their own correspondence or institutional documentation. NBC approval signifies ethical clearance for the approved protocol and may be shared accordingly, without the need for additional statements.

We appreciate your understanding and continued cooperation in upholding ethical standards for research in Pakistan. For any clarifications please feel free to contact NBC.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nighat Murad
Executive Director (HRI)
Member Secretary (NBCR)