**Peer Review levels grid**

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| Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
| Short questionnaire/interview studies for use among hospital staff or GPs  Questionnaires/interviews asking participants about the quality of hospital services, or requesting other non-personal data, taking up to 10 minutes for a patient, or 20 minutes for a healthy volunteer  Use of personal data, histological samples, radiological images or similar material for descriptive purposes only by clinician looking after patient  Studies that have been specifically peer reviewed by either:  i)a major grant-giving body or similar organisation. These include the following: UK Research Councils (including the Medical Research Council); the National Institute for Health Research; and Members of the Association of Medical Charities (including the Wellcome Trust and a large number of specialist or disease-specific charities). This exemption does not include projects that are part of a programme grant but which have not been specifically considered by the grant-giving body. Applicants need to be able to demonstrate to the REC and to the IC Joint Research Office that the relevant grant-giving body had conducted formal peer review of the particular piece of research proposed.  or ii) a pharmaceutical company that has initiated and designed the study.  iii) projects that have been reviewed by the Imperial Healthcare Charity and which would otherwise have been considered at Level 2 or 3. | Routine history taking  Non-intimate physical examination e.g. joint examination, blood pressure measurement  Photography if participant not identifiable  Histological studies on existing/histological specimens  Use of personal data, histological samples, radiological images or similar material for studies that involve more than simple description  Projects using existing stored data  Administration of simple questionnaires/interviews that do not involve “sensitive” (e.g. psychiatric,  sexual, drug or end of life-related) information, unless that information is part of normal clinical practice for the condition under study  Venesection involving a single skin puncture: up to 50mls from healthy volunteers, 20 mls from patients (or *pro rata* for children)  Taking of blood via existing cannula or at same time as venesection which is part  of normal patient care: in single or multiple samples, total volumes as above  Spirometry  Studies involving standard MRI scans  The obtaining or analysis of non-invasive samples, e.g. urine, saliva, faeces. | Physical examination  Photography if participant identifiable  Taking of up to two blood samples total volume of 100mls for healthy volunteers or total volume of 20mls for patients over the whole project or *pro rata* for children  Taking of extra biopsies during biopsy procedure that is part of normal care  A minor lengthening of an invasive procedure (such as less than 5 minutes or 10% added to a procedure that is part of patient care, whichever is the shorter), with little or no extra risk associated with either the investigation or the lengthening of the procedure  Investigation that involves a minimal risk procedure (e.g. arterial blood gas analysis)  New acquisition of personal data that are not part of the normal clinical history  Administration of questionnaires/interviews involving “sensitive” information outside of normal clinical practice  Single-arm study of a drug or device not affecting patient care decisions  Clinical intervention study or controlled trial with low risk to participants (e.g. a study of an oral nutritional supplement, low vitamin doses, or dietary intervention)  Study of non-drug psychological intervention with minimal risk of causing significant harm  DNA analysis with no clinical implications for the participant | Phase I, II and III drug or device trials.  Randomised study of non-drug psychological therapy  Studies with significant potential for harmful physical or psychological impact.  Randomized trials of drugs or devices within their licensed use  Intimate physical examination, unless it is part of normal patient care  Use of radiation  DNA analysis with potential clinical implication e.g. potential for new diagnosis  Studies involving embryos | NIHR portfolio adoption |