

In This Issue

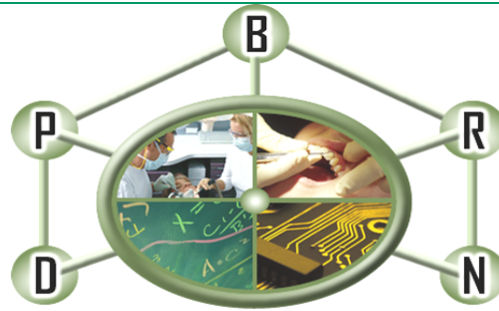
[Publication of the Month](#)

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Each month we will highlight a recent DPBRN publication, recent study results, or other important DPBRN information.

Abstract of DPBRN Publication of the Month

Institutional review board and regulatory solutions in The Dental PBRN
J Public Health Dent 2010;70(1):19-27

The Winter 2010 issue of *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* features an article entitled "Institutional review board and regulatory solutions in The Dental PBRN ". The objectives of this article were to describe: a) the various human participants and regulatory requirements and solutions for each of DPBRN's five regions; b) their impact on study protocols and implementation; and c) lessons learned from this process. The authors found that following numerous discussions with IRB and grants administrative personnel for each region, some practitioner-investigators were attached to their respective IRBs and contracting entities via sub-contracts between their organizations and the network's administrative site. Others were attached via Individual Investigator Agreements and contractually obligated via Memoranda of Agreement. IRBs approve general operations under one approval, but specific research projects via separate approvals. Various formal IRB and grants administrative agreements were arranged to customize research to the network context. In some instances, this occurred after feedback from patients and practitioners that lengthy written consent forms impeded research and raised suspicion, instead of decreasing it. The authors concluded that instead of viewing IRBs and institutional administrators as potentially adversarial, customized solutions can be identified by engaging them in collegial discussions that identify common ground within regulatory bounds. Although time-intensive and complex, these solutions improve acceptability of practice-based research to patients, practitioners, and university researchers. [Click here to read the article.](#)