Updated ICH E6 Principles

PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION OF THE PRINCIPLE	MAIN TEXT OF PRINCIPLE AS STATED IN ICH E6(R3) NOTE: Principles have sub-points within the Guideline which aren't listed here	ICH E6(R2)	ICH E6(R3)
P1	Compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki, GCP, and applicable regulatory requirement(s). Ensuring the rights, safety, and well-being of participants.	Clinical trials should be conducted in accordance with the ethical principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki and that are consistent with GCP and applicable regulatory requirement(s). Clinical trials should be designed and conducted in ways that ensure the rights, safety and well-being of participants.	Located in R2 Principles 1, 2, 3, 7, and 11	Six sub-points, including one that permits a wider range of health professionals to be responsible for medical decisions if this is in accordance with local regulatory requirements.
P2	Informed consent	Informed consent is an integral feature of the ethical conduct of a trial. Clinical trial participation should be voluntary and based on a consent process that ensures participants (or their legally acceptable representatives, where applicable) are well-informed.	Previously P9	The requirement for prior, documented consent. 'Delayed consent/consent to continue' in the emergency setting and flexible consent provisions for low-risk trials in international trial regulation are not supported.
P3	IRB/IEC review and compliance with the protocol	Clinical trials should be subject to an independent review by an institutional review board/independent ethics committee (IRB/IEC).	Previously P6	Added an additional statement confirming the requirement for the periodic review of a trial by the IRB/IEC.
P4	Clinical trials should be scientifically sound and fit for their intended purpose	Clinical trials should be scientifically sound for their intended purpose and based on robust and current scientific knowledge and approaches.	Combines P4 and P5	Includes a statement that trials should 'reflect current scientific knowledge' and the requirement for periodic review of current scientific knowledge.
P5	Individuals qualified by education, training, and experience	Clinical trials should be designed and conducted by qualified individuals.	Previously P8	Provides examples of individuals who should be qualified.
P6	Building quality into trials	Quality should be built into the scientific and operational design and conduct of clinical trials.	Previously P13	Adds focus on 'fitness-for-purpose' and 'critical to quality (CtQ)' concepts. Strategies to avoid, detect, and address serious non-compliance should be implemented.

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P7	Trials should adopt proportionate approaches to their conduct	Clinical trial processes, measures and approaches should be implemented in a way that is proportionate to the risks to participants and to the importance of the data collected.	NEW	New principle on risk proportionality, including clarification that 'trial risks' are risks beyond those posed by standard care. Critical to quality risks should be managed prospectively.
P8	Trials should be described in a clear, concise protocol	Clinical trials should be described in a clear, concise, and operationally feasible protocol.	Previously P5	Contains an additional statement that trials should be 'operationally feasible.'
P9	Trials should generate reliable results	Clinical trials should generate reliable results.	NEW	New principle with 7 sub-points.
P10	Roles and responsibilities should be clear and documented	Roles and responsibilities in clinical trials should be clear and documented appropriately.	NEW	New principle covering delegation of activities, agreements, and the requirement for sponsors and investigators to have oversight of any trial activities they delegate.
P11	Investigational product should be manufactured to GMP and used in accordance with the protocol	Investigational products used in a clinical trial should be manufactured in accordance with applicable Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards and be stored, shipped, handled, and disposed of in accordance with the product specifications and the trial protocol.	Previously P12	Expanded to include measures to retain the quality of investigational products. Labeling and shipping are also covered.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information related to clinical research guidelines and regulations—and tools to navigate the ICH E6(R3) changes—please visit the ACRP Guidelines and Regulations Resource Center.