The single IRB (sIRB) requirement for cooperative research for all Federal Common Rule agencies is effective January 20, 2020.

The sIRB mandate will apply to all new cooperative research studies submitted to the NYU Institutional Review Board on or after January 20, 2020. Previously, the Single IRB policy applied to only NIH funded research.

As with the NIH’s implementation of the sIRB policy in 2018, Federal Common Rule agency funded research studies meeting the definition of a multi-site study (i.e., two or more domestic sites) require sIRB review. This current requirement applies to all “Cooperative Research.”

Note that the “…reviewing IRB will be identified by the Federal department or agency supporting or conducting the research or proposed by the lead institution subject to the acceptance of the Federal department or agency supporting the research.”

There are some exceptions. The following types of studies DO NOT need to follow the sIRB requirement:

“(i) Cooperative research for which more than single IRB review is required by law (including tribal law passed by the official governing body of an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe); or

(ii) Research for which any Federal department or agency supporting or conducting the research determines and documents that the use of a single IRB is not appropriate for the particular context.”