Effective November 1, 2001, the UCSD Human Research Protection Program began billing commercial sponsors for IRB review and ongoing monitoring of sponsored projects conducted by UCSD faculty and staff. This Fact Sheet is in the format of a “Frequently Asked Questions” summary.

Q. What projects are affected by the review charges?
A. New commercially sponsored clinical trials agreements will include, as part of the negotiation process, the notification to the sponsor that UCSD will issue an invoice for IRB review of the project.

Q. How much is the charge and what does it cover?
A. For agreements submitted on June 1, 2015 or later, the UCSD campus recharge committee has approved a flat rate fee of $3402 for an initial review and $3402 for each 10-year “re-submission” (treated as a “new” project by the IRB) review and $1260 for each annual continuing review. These fees are based on the actual cost of services provided and on comparability with equivalent services provided by other UC campuses and commercial IRB organizations.

Q. Will UCSD investigators be billed for IRB review?
A. No. The invoice for IRB review will be sent by the UCSD Office of Clinical Trial Administration to the sponsor, not to the principal investigator.

Q. Does payment of the IRB review fee by a sponsor guarantee project approval?
A. No. The IRB performs an independent review that follows the policies and procedures outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations relating to human subjects protection. The review fee will be assessed of project sponsors regardless of the outcome of the review.

Q. What will the income generated by the IRB fee be used for?
A. Income to the Human Research Protection Program that results from the review fee will be applied to improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and speed of the IRB review process. This will include new computer and information technologies that enable online submission of IRB applications, amendments, and adverse event reporting, an electronic document infrastructure for IRB records, as well as educational and technical enhancements for UCSD investigators and for IRB committee reviewers.

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