Review Preparatory to Research (RPR)

RPR is a provision provided by HIPAA which allows a researcher access to protected health information prior to conducting research. Protected health information is any information about health status, provision of health care, or payment for health care that can be linked to a specific individual.

Uses of this information may include:

- Designing a research study; or
- Determining study feasibility; or
- Assemble a database of people who have indicated they would like to join a study

Researchers are not allowed to take the protected health information out of the covered entity’s location.

The action required to initiate a RPR is a notification, in writing to the IRB, of the researcher’s intent to review protected materials for preparatory to research. For more information and notification form see SOP PP 901-A.

Things to include are:

1. the use or disclosure of the protected health information,
2. that it is solely to prepare a research protocol or for similar purposes preparatory to research,
3. that the researcher will not remove any protected health information from the covered entity, and
4. representation that protected health information for which access is sought is necessary for the research purpose. See 45 CFR 164.512(i)(1)(ii).