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Issued by:	Chair of the Board		
Authorized by:	Board of Directors		
			
Board Policy re: Research Activities			

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction regarding the conduct of research activities at The Perley and Rideau Veterans’ Health Centre (Perley Health).

Statement of Board Policy

Perley Health supports and promotes a culture of applied research in order to develop and expand innovative, evidence-based practice to advance the care of older adults living with frailty in long-term care.

Research activities undertaken at Perley Health must be in compliance with the principles set out in this Policy.

Context

The vision of Perley Health is to lead innovation in frailty-informed care to enable Seniors and Veterans to live life to the fullest. To accomplish this vision, the Perley Health strategic plan foresees the need to improve our ability to deliver greater value to the healthcare system by specializing in frailty-informed care.

Achieving this vision requires that Perley Health undertake research to better understand and enhance practices in areas such as excellence in care; innovation in education, best practices and knowledge translation; and applied research in the care of seniors living with frailty.

Principles

The following principles must be respected when undertaking research projects:

- **Strategic Alignment:** Proposed research activities must be clearly connected to the overall strategy of Perley Health, including alignment of values.
- **Current Climate:** Proposed activities should address a current or anticipated need, gap or problem, taking into consideration internal and external pressures and circumstances.
- **Resource Implications:** Resource input (financial, infrastructure, human resources etc.) must be assessed and balanced against anticipated outcomes.
- **Risk Management:** Where risks (financial, reputational etc.) are identified, due diligence is imperative and mitigating strategies must be considered.
- **Ethical Implications:** Potential ethical issues must be clearly assessed before starting a project and any issues that arise thereafter must be quickly addressed, with disclosure to senior management and/or the Board if appropriate.
- **Partnerships:** Where partnering is considered beneficial, well-defined guidelines for decision-making and accountability must be developed and the resource implications clearly established.
- **Responsible Conduct of Research:** All research activities will be conducted in accordance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2, 2018).

Scope

This policy applies to all research conducted at Perley Health including: long-term care; short-term care; independent living; the Interprofessional Clinic; or any other Perley Health program. The policy seeks to protect residents, patients, clients, families, staff, volunteers and the organization and applies to any staff member, researcher, volunteer or other collaborators involved in research activities at Perley Health.

Centre of Excellence

The focal point for research at Perley Health is the Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care (Centre of Excellence). All research conducted at Perley Health will be subject to review and approval by the Centre of Excellence following procedures established in the Operational Research Policy (dated November 25th 2020 and as may be subsequently amended).

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board:

The Board has general oversight over the execution of this policy and the research strategy of the Centre of Excellence.

The Centre of Excellence Committee:

The Centre of Excellence Committee is responsible for overseeing the execution of the research strategy, monitoring performance and providing strategic advice to Centre of Excellence activities. The Centre of Excellence Committee supports the Research Chair and the Director of the Centre of Excellence in developing and implementing the research strategy and identifying and pursuing opportunities for the Centre of Excellence to grow and thrive.

The Centre of Excellence Committee oversees implementation of this Policy and its review, and shall provide recommendations for change as required. It shall also, through its Chair, advise the Board of any key issues it deems appropriate for Board consideration or corporate attention and shall provide the Board with an annual report as well as quarterly updates.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

The CEO is responsible for the management of the Centre of Excellence and all research carried out at Perley Health.

Policy Review

The Board shall review this policy and its implementation as required, or at least every three years.

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