COVID-19 IRB Policy Statement re ClinCard Substitution

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seattle Children’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) understands that many study teams may need to substitute egift cards in place of ClinCard(s), in the same dollar amount as initially planned, in order to thank participants for taking part in studies.

To support the changes that the COVID-19 situation is necessitating regarding the use of ClinCards, the IRB is taking the following actions:

- Providing this IRB Policy Statement. The IRB understands that participant payment methods are changing from ClinCards to eGift cards for many studies and that we approve these changes by way of this document and as minor modifications to the studies.
- Posting an IRB Pre-Approved Participant Letter Template. This template may be used by study teams to notify participants of these changes. Please note that if your study needs to make this change, you need to use either this letter template (with content pre-approved by IRB and including customizable study-specific sections) or another means of notifying study participants (that would need to be separately approved by the IRB).

This policy statement and use of the IRB pre-approved participant letter template are intended to negate the need to submit modifications to the IRB for these changes.

Study teams should note that some participants may choose to withdraw from a study if they find the ClinCard substitution unacceptable. Of course, participants maintain the ability to do so pursuant to the normal terms and considerations reflected in your research plan and consenting documents.

Approved by Seattle Children’s IRB on March 30, 2020

*Douglas Diekema, IRB Chair*

*Laurie Price, Director, Office of Institutional Assurances*