Research Approval

Western REB versus Lawson Health Research Institute Roles

*When* anyone on the research team will a) rely on their hospital professional credentials, b) use any hospital resources, or c) conduct research at a Lawson-affiliated facility

*Then*, Lawson approval is required.

Lawson is a separate entity from Western’s Research Ethics Boards (REBs) and the Office of Human Research Ethics which provides administrative support to the REBs. However, applications are linked between Western and Lawson using our online application systems.

**Lawson approval** is multifaceted. **REB oversight is delegated** by Lawson to Western’s REBs (or another Board of Record) but ultimately forms only one component of institutional approval. Lawson and London Hospitals do not have their own REBs.

Lawson oversees contracts, training, and Clinical Research Impact Committee approval (CRIC).

Lawson manages these approvals via ReDA (overall) and LORA (for CRIC).

**Western’s REBs** must ensure compliance with external regulatory requirements and consider institutional requirements (Lawson and Hospital SOPs, DIERs, contracts, and Privacy Office) in their review. However, ultimately an REB is independent from Lawson. The REBs operate at arms length in their decision making. Western’s REBs manage applications via Western Research Ethics Manager (WREM). Western’s REBs have their own guidelines, templates, and timelines to support researchers.

*Researchers work to meet institutional requirements simultaneously.*

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1. Register the study w Lawson
2. Export to REB application
3. Export for CRIC process