

## Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Library

### *What is REDCap's eConsent framework?*

The REDCap Electronic Consent (eConsent) framework is a REDCap-enabled method to administer, collect, and store electronic consent documentation. This framework enables certification and auto-archiving in a standard survey project. If you wish to use eConsent in REDCap, you will add relevant identification fields, such as name and signature, into a REDCap survey form, enable the eConsent framework in the online designer and upload the PDF file of the consent form to the eConsent framework.

If your IRB has categorized your study as exempt and signatures are not required by other regulations (e.g., by HIPAA, FERPA, etc.) you are not required to use the eConsent framework. Instead, exempt studies are often built in REDCap with a descriptive field that contains an introductory consent script and may also contain a simple 'Yes, I agree' checkbox.

**IMPORTANT:** If your protocol does not allow the collection of identifiers, the REDCap eConsent framework should not be used. The REDCap eConsent framework automatically captures Internet Protocol (IP) address which is personally identifiable information.

**Pro Tip:** If you are using the REDCap eConsent framework, include IP addresses as one of the identifiers being collected in your research.

When the eConsent framework is enabled, the following will happen:

1. After signing the eConsent, a certification page appears at the end of the eConsent which displays a PDF copy of the document the participant filled out. The participant will be asked to confirm that all information entered and displayed in the PDF document is correct. The full language of the certification checkbox is as follows: *"I certify that all of my information in the document above is correct. I understand that clicking 'Submit' will electronically sign the form and that signing this form electronically is the equivalent of signing a physical document."*
  - a. **Note:** The eConsent will *not* be signed and complete until the participant has fulfilled this certification step.

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2. Upon submission of the certification, a PDF copy of the certified eConsent will be saved in the project's **File Repository in the PDF Snapshot Archive folder**. These archived PDFs can be downloaded at any time by those authorized in the project's User Rights to have "full" download rights for the eConsent form(s).

The saved PDF can include custom footers with the option to include the following information:

	Required	Recommended	Not Recommended
<b>Participant Name</b>	X		
<b>Date &amp; Time of eConsent</b>	X		
<b>Participant Date of Birth</b>			X
<b>Consent Version Number</b>		X	
<b>Type of eConsent</b>		X*	

\* *Type of consent is recommended for studies with multiple consent form types (e.g. parent, child, person obtaining consent).*