



**HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AFRICA : (HPCA)**

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

(Registration No. : REC-250408-005)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1 The HPCA Research Ethics Committee (hereafter referred to as “ REC ” is mandated to fulfil its function by the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa.
- 2 The essential function of the Committee is to review the protocols of all human participant health research projects proposed to be undertaken by researchers, the purpose of the review being the protection of the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of all human participants of research. Special attention will be paid to research that may include vulnerable participants (Appendix A). The Committee is available to review, advise on, and approve or reject research protocols involving human participants submitted to it by researchers anywhere in the Republic of South Africa. Research to be reviewed will be in accordance with the stipulations of the National Health Act no. 61 of 2003.
- 3 The Research Ethics Committee will provide oversight and monitoring of approved protocols.
- 4 The Committee will adjudicate complaints of any ethics transgression and / or research misconduct on protocols have been approved by the Committee. Any health related research which requires participant protection and is conducted on Hospice patients without prior ethics approval will also be regarded as an ethics transgression necessitating action by the Committee.

DEFINITION VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES - UNAIDS AND DOH

Vulnerable communities are defined as having some or all of the following characteristics:

- Limited economic development;
- Inadequate protection of human rights and discrimination on the basis of health status;
- Inadequate community or cultural experience with the understanding of scientific research;
- Limited availability of health care and treatment options;
- Limited ability of individuals in the community to provide informed consent.