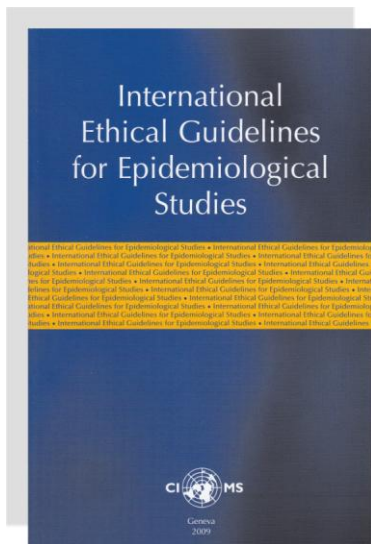


NEW PUBLICATION

Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)



International Ethical Guidelines for Epidemiological Studies



The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) announces the publication of its revised/updated *International Ethical Guidelines for Epidemiological Studies*.

This 2009 text supersedes the 1991 *International Guidelines for Ethical Review of Epidemiological Studies*. Its core consists of 24 guidelines with commentaries. A section outlines the historical background and the revision process, and includes an introduction, an account of earlier instruments and guidelines and a statement of general ethical principles. An Appendix lists the items to be included in a research protocol to be submitted for epidemiological research involving human subjects. Also included in the appendices is the World Medical Association's 2008 Declaration of Helsinki.

The Guidelines set forth ethical guidance on how epidemiologists - as well as those who sponsor, review, or participate in the studies they conduct - should identify and respond to the ethical issues that are raised by the process of producing this information.

Epidemiology has made essential contributions to the improvement in human health achieved over the past century. It can be reasonably expected that the field will continue to do so by using ever more powerful and sophisticated scientific tools to increase the understanding of the distribution of health and illness and of their many physical, chemical, biological, behavioural, social and environmental determinants. Indeed, further improving the health of the public depends on making the greater use of the tools of epidemiology. At the same time, it is essential that this new knowledge, and the changes for the good that it prompts, be derived from studies conducted according to recognized ethical standards. By focusing on the distinctive aspects of epidemiological research, this document aims to provide the field with just such a set of ethical standards.

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Order from CIOMS,
c/o WHO, Avenue Appia 20,
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

E-mail: cioms@who.int
Tel. (+41 22) 791 34 13
Fax: (+41 22) 791 42 86