

15.9.2010 Amendments to the medical research act

The scope of application of the Medical Research Act will be extended. The amendment of the Medical Research Act involves that all those research studies in the field of nursing and health science that intervene in the integrity of a person are covered by statutory prior evaluation in regard to issues pertaining to research ethics. Furthermore, the prior ethical evaluation of medical research studies is concentrated in the regional ethics committees set up by the university hospital districts for their special catchment areas.

In the same connection, the status, tasks and name of the Sub-Committee on Medical Research Ethics will be changed. A National Committee on Medical Research Ethics will be established under the auspices of the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira), which will support, monitor and guide the work of the regional committees and serve as an expert body in issues pertaining to research ethics. The task of the National Committee is to issue an ethical evaluation of all clinical trials of pharmaceuticals carried out in Finland, unless it decides to assign this duty to a regional ethics committee.

The President of the Republic approved the Amended Act on Friday 10 September, and it enters into force on 1 October 2010.

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