Research or Activities Exempt from IRB Review

There are six categories of research or activities which are generally exempt from review by the IRB:

1. **Normal Educational Practices and Settings** - This category is limited to the study of normal educational practices and be conducted in commonly accepted settings such as elementary, secondary, or postsecondary settings.
2. **Anonymous Educational Tests, Surveys, Interviews, or Observations** – If the research data contain any subject identifiers and if disclosure of data to unauthorized persons could harm the subject in any way, the research is not exempt.
3. **Identifiable Subjects in Special Circumstances** – Tests, surveys, interviews or observation of public behavior, if the subjects are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office.
4. **Collection or Study of Existing Data** – The data must be publicly available, or the information derived from use of the data, records, or biological specimens must be recorded so that subjects cannot be identified.
5. **Public Benefit or Service Programs** – Research and demonstration projects that are conducted by or subject to the approval of governmental department or agency heads, such as Welfare, Medicaid, and Social Security.
6. **Taste and Food Evaluation and Consumer Acceptance Studies** – Should be limited to taste and food quality evaluation studies that do not involve consumption by the subject of any type or volume of food that has any potential risks.

Research or activities falling into one of these categories and for which there is minimal or no risk to human subjects may be considered by the IRB to be exempt from IRB review. Investigators who believe that their project or study is exempt should file an "Application for Determination of Exemption" with the IRB

Source: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45 Public Welfare Department of Health and Human Services Part 46 Protection of Human Subjects http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/45cfr46.html#46.101