

1. PROTOCOL CHANGES

1.1 General principles

During the conduct of the Study, protocol changes are not desirable and should not be made unless patient safety is compromised or unless new information arises, strongly suggesting changes that would strengthen the scientific validity of the study. In the event that alterations are necessary, the following procedures will be followed.

1.2 Procedures

Recommendations for protocol changes may originate from the DSMB, the NIDDK, the Data Coordinating Center, or one of the working committees. All proposed changes will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration. The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Steering Committee as to whether the proposed modification merits consideration and the method of incorporating the proposed change into the protocol. Approval by the Steering Committee must have support from two-thirds of the voting members. The recommendations of the Steering Committee will then be presented to the DSMB, which will advise the NIDDK as to whether the protocol change is advisable. The NIDDK may seek further advice from other experts outside the Study before making the final decision whether to approve the protocol change.