



**Ethical  
Considerations for  
Obtaining Informed  
Consent in  
Longitudinal Studies  
of Aging**

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# Overview

- Assessing capacity
- Talking to dyads
- Returning results



# Assessing Capacity

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- Investigators need a plan for assessing prospective participants' capacity to consent to research.
- When participants lack capacity, investigators should find ways of involving them in research-related decision making—e.g., assent and dissent.



# Talking to Dyads

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- Some studies enroll dyads comprised of a participant and the participant's "study partner."
- Members of dyads often reach decisions about research participation collaboratively.
- Triadic communication is a known challenge, and investigators must be mindful to address both members of the dyad.



# Returning Results

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- Longitudinal studies of aging gather information valued by older adults and their families.
- The consent process is a chance to set expectations about return of results and lay the foundation for understanding their import.





# Conclusion

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