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JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

Section C

Subject and Researcher Characteristics

Subject Characteristics

- Age
 - Child
 - Elderly
- Level of education

Subject Characteristics

- Life experience
 - Rural/urban
 - Cultural norms/beliefs
 - ▶ Gender
 - ▶ Age
 - ▶ Profession

Subject Characteristics

- Illness
 - Enrollment in research for treatment
 - ▶ Blurring of line
 - ▶ Last hope
 - Overestimation of medical benefit
 - ▶ False belief?

Researcher Characteristics

- Training
 - PhD/MD
- Time constraints

Researcher-Subject Relationship Factors

- Power differential
- Dependency
- Preference for passive role in decision making
- Heightened when ...
 - Subject is patient with illness
 - Subject is patient of researcher/physician

Summary

- Potential subjects deserve respect
- Obligations of investigators
 - Information sharing
 - Assessment of understanding
- Consent is a process