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JOHNS HOPKINS
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Risk/Benefit Assessment

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Section A

Balancing Risks and Benefits

Beneficence

- Doing good
- Avoiding harm
- Minimizing harm
- Balancing risks and benefits

Beneficence: Balancing Risks and Benefits

- Risk is the *chance* of a harm occurring
 - There are risks from research
 - There are “known harms” from research
- Parallel would be “potential benefit”
 - There are potential benefits in research
 - There are known benefits in research

Risk and Benefit Considerations

- Risks and benefits can be ...
 - Known vs. unknown
 - To individuals and/or communities
- Must consider ...
 - Likelihood of occurrence
 - Severity/magnitude of occurrence
 - Permanence/reversibility

Categories of Risks

- Physical
- Psychological
- Social
- Economic

What Are the Possible Risks to Individuals?

- Physical
 - Known/predictable
 - Unknown/unpredictable

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 - E.g., anxiety, worry, upset
 - “Wrong to personhood”
 - ▶ What is this?

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 - “Wrong to personhood”
 - ▶ What is this?
- Social
 - E.g., stigma, reputation, isolation
- Economic

Other “Burdens” to Be Disclosed

- Time burden
- Inconvenience

What Are the Possible Benefits for Individual Participants?

- Physical/medical
- Psychological (hope, altruism)
- Social (reputation, altruism)
- Monetary/material