

<b>Guidance Document</b>	Case Report vs Research
<b>Effective Review</b>	HSREB
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## Case report vs research:

The criteria used by the OHRE to differentiate a case review from research are:

- The report is limited to a very small number of 'unique' patients/cases from a single physician or clinic (generally  $n < 5$ )
- There is no intention to prospectively or retrospectively test or compare various therapies/outcomes/data
- There is no systematic data collection required e.g. standardized chart reviews
- There is no descriptive or comparison statistics of the patient cohorts.

If these criteria are met, then the exercise is a case study. It is considered to be a summary of interesting findings arising out of everyday practice, and not research.

The review of a case series may result in a question or hypothesis that warrants further exploration through a study of a larger number of charts or additional review of the existing charts. This would then be considered a research study and would require ethics review and approval prior to commencement.

If the study is in fact a case series, as described above, then REB review is not required.