

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463609003321
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Titolo	The censor's hand : the misregulation of human-subject research // Carl E. Schneider
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Massachusetts ; ; London, England : , : The MIT Press, , 2015 ©2015
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (292 p.)
Collana	Basic Bioethics
Disciplina	174.2/8
Soggetti	Human experimentation in medicine - Moral and ethical aspects Bioethics Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	""Contents""; ""Series Foreword""; ""Preface""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Introduction""; ""Part I: More Good than Harm""; ""1 Research Risk and Regulationist Stereotypes""; ""2 Cost Is No Object""; ""Part II: The Quality of IRB Decisions""; ""3 Arbitrary and Capricious Decisions""; ""4 The Misshapen Ideology of the IRB System""; ""5 The Rule of Law: The Lessons of Due Process""; ""6 Censorship in a System of Free Expression""; ""Conclusion: The Imperial IRB""; ""Notes""; ""Index""; ""Basic Bioethics Series List""
Sommario/riassunto	Medical and social progress depend on research with human subjects. When that research is done in institutions getting federal money, it is regulated by federally required and supervised bureaucracies called 'institutional review boards' expected to apply bioethical principles in making decisions. Do - can - these administrative agencies do more harm than good? This book answers this fundamental but long-unasked question by consulting a critical experience - the law's learning about regulation - and by amassing the empirical evidence scattered around many literatures.