

# **Protecting people who participate in research**

*CITI Training Study Guide  
Research with Protected Populations –  
Vulnerable Subjects*

## **What determines a vulnerable population?**

- **Susceptible to coercion or undue influence, for example:**
  - **Children**
  - **Prisoners**
  - **Mentally disabled persons**
  - **Economically or educationally disadvantaged persons**
  - **Nursing home patients**
  - **Patients with incurable diseases**
  - **Refugees**

## **What determines a vulnerable population?**

- **Willingness to participate may be unduly influenced by expectation of benefits, or retaliatory response from senior members of a hierarchy**
  - **Students**
  - **Prisoners**
  - **Employees**
  - **Members of the armed forces**

## **What are the elements of autonomy?**

### **Ability to freely give informed consent**

- **Mental capacity**
- **Freedom from control or influence of others, including substantial financial incentives to participate**