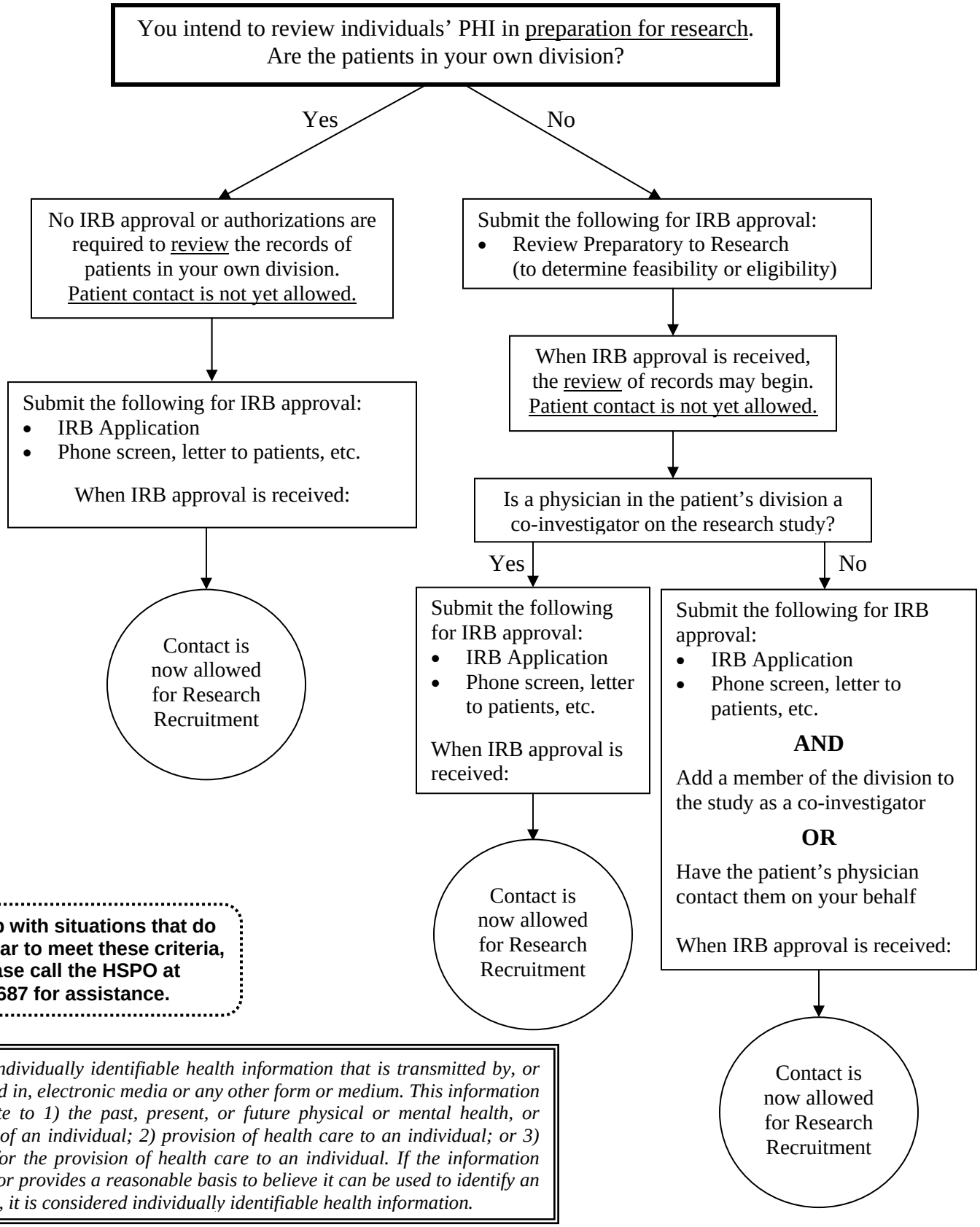
Decision Tree for the Review of Protected Health Information (PHI)* Before Conducting Research

This decision tree should be used when you intend to review individuals' PHI in preparation for a research study, and individuals will ultimately be contacted for research recruitment.

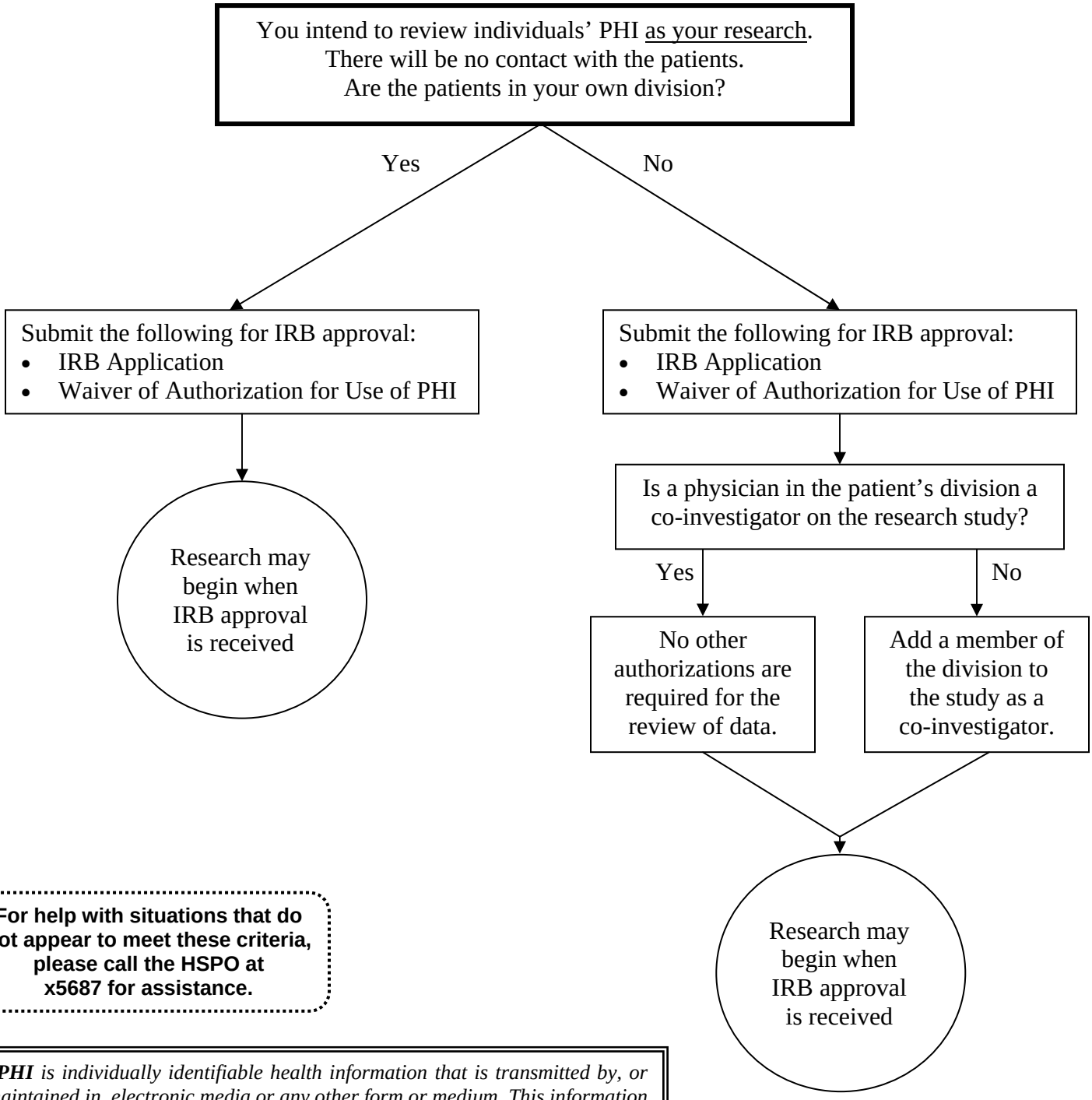


For help with situations that do not appear to meet these criteria, please call the HSPO at x5687 for assistance.

***PHI** is individually identifiable health information that is transmitted by, or maintained in, electronic media or any other form or medium. This information must relate to 1) the past, present, or future physical or mental health, or condition of an individual; 2) provision of health care to an individual; or 3) payment for the provision of health care to an individual. If the information identifies or provides a reasonable basis to believe it can be used to identify an individual, it is considered individually identifiable health information.*

Decision Tree for Research Involving the Review of Protected Health Information (PHI)* as Research

This decision tree should be used when the research study is limited to reviewing individuals' PHI, and there will be no direct contact with the individuals.



For help with situations that do not appear to meet these criteria, please call the HSPO at x5687 for assistance.

***PHI** is individually identifiable health information that is transmitted by, or maintained in, electronic media or any other form or medium. This information must relate to 1) the past, present, or future physical or mental health, or condition of an individual; 2) provision of health care to an individual; or 3) payment for the provision of health care to an individual. If the information identifies or provides a reasonable basis to believe it can be used to identify an individual, it is considered individually identifiable health information.*