

Request for consent to use your medical data and biological material for medical research

Dear patient,

Advances in medicine depend on scientific research. To conduct such research, researchers require medical data and biological material (samples) from both healthy and sick persons. We must therefore ask your permission to use your data and samples in encrypted and/or anonymised form for the purposes of medical research. Encryption and anonymisation ensure that your data cannot be traced back to you.

What does “your consent” mean?

When you give your consent, your data and samples may be used for future medical research projects in Switzerland and abroad in compliance with the applicable data protection regulations (Federal Act on Data Protection FADP, EU General Data Protection Regulation GDPR). Your consent applies to all the data that has already been collected or will be collected in future by the medical practice / hospital. The same applies to samples.

What data and samples are used?

Your personal data (e.g. age and gender) and data from your medical history that are collected as part of your examinations or treatment at the medical practice / hospital are utilised. This includes potential risk factors, results from clinical examinations and imaging as well as laboratory tests. These samples are residual material (e.g. blood, urine, tissue) that would be stored or otherwise destroyed.

Are the research projects reviewed by an ethics committee?

Research projects conducted in Switzerland must be approved by the relevant independent ethics committee. The ethics committee also audits compliance with all data protection requirements.

What are the benefits and risks?

If you make your data and samples available for research purposes, there is no direct, personal benefit to you. However, you will be making an important contribution to medical research. Should the results indeed be relevant to your personal health, you will be informed of this whenever possible (this is not possible for research done with anonymised samples). The risks are minimised to the greatest possible extent through data protection measures. For encrypted data, the key (list of codes corresponding to individual persons) remains at our medical practice / hospital and is protected by strict security measures.

Can you revoke your consent?

You have the right to revoke your consent at any time and for any reason. This revocation has no effect whatsoever on your subsequent medical treatment and care. If you revoke your consent, your data and samples that are being used in a research project that is already in progress may still be used until the project is complete.

If you have any questions, please speak with your doctor. Further information is available on the Hirslanden Klinik website under Research and Education.

I consent to having my medical data and samples used for research:

Yes No

Place, date: _____ Signature: _____