## Welfare attorney/guardian or nearest relative information sheet

Version: 5, 23 October 2024

Local Lead Investigator: [local\_lead\_investigator\_name]

Chief Investigator: Prof JK Baillie, University of Edinburgh

### Introduction

We are undertaking a genetic research study involving people with critical illness and healthy volunteers. Some of our genes (or DNA) affect how vulnerable we are to critical illness. We are trying to find these genes because they can help us to develop better treatments for other patients in the future.

You are the best person to represent the interests of a patient who may be able to participate in this research, which is why we have approached you. We would ask you to set aside your own views and consider their interests and what you feel would be their wishes and feelings. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for the patient.

Please take time to read the following information carefully. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information and take time to decide. Your decision is completely voluntary. The decision you make will not affect their care or treatment in any way.

### What will happen if the patient takes part in this study?

You will be asked to confirm your declaration by signing a form. A single blood sample will be taken (4mls; roughly 1 teaspoon) to get a DNA sample. If the patient is unable to give a blood sample for any reason, a sample of saliva may be taken instead in some circumstances.

### What will happen to the samples?

The study requires one DNA sample. We will obtain a sample of DNA from a single blood sample of 4mls (1 teaspoon) or less. In some circumstances, if blood is not possible, we may be able to get a sample of your DNA from a saliva sample.

We will use the sample to analyse the patient’s DNA which could include the whole sequence of your genome. Your genome is the ‘instruction manual’ that contains the information needed to make, run and repair everything in the body. We will safely store the DNA sample and hold the genetic information, and other health information, on a secure computer.

Data from the patient’s DNA sample, together with their health data, will be looked at by researchers and compared with DNA and health data from the rest of the population, and from others with critical illness from different causes.

### Are there any benefits or disadvantages to taking part in this study?

There is no direct benefit to taking part in the study, but we hope to be able to help other people who become critically ill in future. There is a very small possibility that we will discover information about the patient’s health from their DNA. If this unlikely event happens, we will try to contact their clinical care team to explain the findings and there may be a need for additional tests. This information may be complex and difficult to interpret with certainty, and it may change over time as we discover more about the genome. For this reason, the significance of this information would be explained to the patient by doctors or nurses with relevant expertise.

### What data is looked at?

We will collect personal information about the patient and their illness, such as name, date of birth and NHS or CHI number. This will be held on a secure computer that only a very limited number of people can access. The personal information will be linked to their DNA sample and genetic information using a unique number meaning the patient can never be identified by any scientist or investigator undertaking an analysis of their data.

GenOMICC investigators and partners will always protect the patient’s data and control who has access to it. Researchers will access the following de-identified (meaning that name, date of birth and other identifying information have been removed) information:

* The patient’s clinical test data
* Electronic copies of all of the patient’s records from the NHS, GP and other organisations (such as NHS Digital and Public Health bodies)
* Information about any illnesses or stays in hospital – including information that you may not think is related to the patient
* Copies of hospital or clinic records, medical notes, social care, and local or national disease registries, and data from other research studies
* Relevant images from the patient’s NHS records, such as MRI scans, X-rays or photographs
* Data from other research registries and studies that may be relevant

The patient’s original records remain within the NHS. We will include the patient’s data in secure analysis systems. Data taken out of these environments will be restricted to data that cannot be used to re-identify anyone in any way.

The information will only be used for the purpose of healthcare research, or to contact the patient about future opportunities to participate in research. It will not be used to make decisions about future services that might be available, such as insurance.

Where there is a risk that the patient could be identified, their data will only be used in research that has been independently reviewed by an ethics committee and the sponsor.

### Will the DATA be kept confidential?

Yes. All the information we collect during the course of the research will be kept confidential and there are strict laws which safeguard the privacy of research participants at every stage. Study researchers will need access to the patient’s medical records and data to carry out this research.

To ensure that the study is being run correctly, we will ask your agreement for responsible representatives from the Sponsor or NHS Institution to access the patient’s medical records and data collected during the study, where it is relevant to their taking part in this research. The Sponsor is responsible for overall management of the study and providing insurance and indemnity.

### What will happen to the DNA sample and data?

With your permission, we will store the DNA sample and genetic data to use for future ethically approved medical research. Some of this research may make use of facilities in other countries, or those provided by commercial organisations, but the sample will always be under the control of the GenOMICC investigators, or partner organisations, and subject to UK regulations.

### WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE STUDY?

GenOMICC is a collaboration of doctors and scientists who are trying to better understand critical illness.

We may also partner with other organisations in future to conduct research.

### Will you contact THE patient AGAIN?

If you agree, we may contact the patient again for further information or to tell them about other research opportunities. Although we can learn a lot from DNA, we may be able to learn even more from studying the cells in the patient’s blood, or other research. If this was the case, we would contact you as we would need a second blood sample. You don’t have to agree to this or to any future requests.

### Can I request that THEY be withdrawn from the study at any point?

Yes, you are free to withdraw the patient from this study at any time without giving reason and without detriment to their medical care.

There are two options to consider when withdrawing:

**1. Partial withdrawal**

This option is for situations where you would be content for the patient’s data to continue to be used for research, but want no further contact:

* we will update our records to ensure you are not contacted
* we will continue to update and store information from the patient’s health and other records for use in approved research
* we will approach the patient for their own consent to stay in the study in future, if they are able

**2. Full withdrawal**

This option is for situations where you no longer wish for the patient’s data to be used for research and want no further contact.

We **will**

* + delete the personal information we hold about the patient
  + destroy the DNA sample
  + delete your genetic information (if it has not already been included in an analysis)

We **will not**:

* + contact you directly
  + continue to update and store information from the patient’s health and other records
  + allow new research access to information that is held about the patient
  + use information for purposes other auditing

We **cannot:**

* + remove data from research that is underway or has already been done but the information we hold at this stage is de-identified, meaning no-one would know anything was related to the patient
  + remove original records held by the NHS and an audit trail confirming participation in GenOMICC will remain with the NHS

Contact the local lead investigator or study co-ordinator and let them know if you decide to withdraw consent. Their details are noted in the next section below.

### What if I have any problems or would like further information about the study?

If you would like more information about the study, you can contact the Local Lead Investigator, [local\_lead\_investigator\_name], or contact the study coordinator, [study\_coordinator\_name] on: [study\_coordinator\_phone\_number] or email [study\_coordinator\_email\_address]

If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study team please contact: David Dorward on: 0131 650 1000 or email: David.dorward@ed.ac.uk

If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact: [Enter local patient experience team or complaint contact information / Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) details]

## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Participant Information

The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), tailored by the Data Protection Act 2018, will govern the processing (holding or use) of personal data in the UK. The information below details what data is held about a participant in a research study, and who holds or stores this.

The University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian are the co-sponsors for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will use information from the patient’s medical records in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after the patient’s information and using it properly. The co-sponsors will keep identifiable information about the patient for 5 years after the study has finished.

The patient’s rights to access, change or move their information are limited, as we need to manage their information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw the patient from the study, we will keep the information about them that we have already obtained. To safeguard the patient’s rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

### Providing personal data directly e.g. verbally, in a questionnaire or from your care provider

[NHS\_site\_name] will keep the patient’s name, NHS number and contact details to contact them about the research study, and make sure that relevant information about the study is recorded for their care, and to oversee the quality of the study. Individuals from the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian and regulatory organisations may look at the patient’s medical and research records to check the accuracy of the research study. [NHS\_site\_name] will pass these details to the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian along with information collected from the patient’s medical records. The only people in the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian who will have access to information that identifies the patient will be people who need to contact them about study follow up or audit the data collection process.

[NHS\_site\_name] will keep identifiable information about the patient from this study for 5 years after the study has finished.

Providing personal data indirectly e.g. from the patient’s medical records

The University of Edinburgh, NHS Lothian will collect information about the patient for this research study from [NHS\_site\_name]. This information will include the patient’s name/ NHS number/ contact details and health information, which is regarded as a special category of information. We will use this information to access their medical records where applicable and study follow up.

### Use of data for future research

When you agree that the patient can take part in a research study, the information about their health and care may be provided to researchers running other research studies in this organisation and in other organisations. These organisations may be universities, NHS organisations or companies involved in health and care research in this country or abroad. The patient’s information will only be used by organisations and researchers to conduct research in accordance with the [UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research**.**](https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/policies-standards-legislation/uk-policy-framework-health-social-care-research/)

The patient’s information could be used for research in any aspect of health or care, and could be combined with information about them from other sources held by researchers, the NHS or government. Where this information could identify the patient, the information will be held securely with strict arrangements about who can access the information.

### Contact for further information

You can find out more about how we use the patient’s information and our legal basis for doing so in our Privacy Notice at [www.accord.scot.](http://www.accord.scot/)

For further information on the use of personal data by NHS sites, please link to the Health Research Authority (HRA) website; [https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/.](https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/)

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled the patient’s personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) at [https://ico.org.uk/.](https://ico.org.uk/)

Data Protection Officer contact information:

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| **University of Edinburgh**  Data Protection Officer  Governance and Strategic Planning  University of Edinburgh  Old College  Edinburgh  EH8 9YL  Tel: 0131 651 4114 [dpo@ed.ac.uk](mailto:dpo@ed.ac.uk) | **NHS Lothian**  Data Protection Officer  NHS Lothian  Waverley Gate  2-4 Waterloo Place  Edinburgh  EH1 3EG  Tel: 0131 465 5444  [Lothian.DPO@nhs.net](mailto:Lothian.DPO@nhs.net) |  |