

Policy for transfer of existing specimen collections to IVRN

The overall aim of the IVRN is to facilitate strategic immunology and virology research in relation to Australians with HIV or HCV.

The scope of the research activities supported by the Network are outlined in the Operational Strategic Plan for the Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research (ACH²) (see The Challenge of Renewal at <http://www.hiv.edu.au/>). A summary of these research activities is included in Appendix 2.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines by which the IVRN will assume responsibility for existing sample sets collected from patients with HIV or hepatitis C that are relevant to the areas of strategy research.

The criteria for evaluation of potential specimen sets are four-fold:

1. the degree to which the proposed sample sets will facilitate Australian HIV and HCV strategy research (see Appendix 2);
2. the quality of the specimens and the associated dataset (clinical and laboratory)
3. the extent to which samples collected will be made broadly available to other Australian investigators via the Network;
4. the competing demands on the resources of the Network.

The transfer of samples will be made under a generous reimbursement arrangement to cover costs for the original investigators associated with the specimen collection.

Documentation of the original human research ethics approval and conditions associated with the use of the samples will be required. Similarly, resolution of an updated human research ethics approval to cover the transfer and re-distribution of specimens via the IVRN will be required.

Correspondence regarding potential specimen collections should be made to:

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