METADAC BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES – SUMMARY GUIDELINES

Biological samples from longitudinal studies are a valuable resource providing the assays are suitable for the sample processing history.

METADAC's considerations of finite biological samples are mindful of the following:

- *Applications to use samples should clearly demonstrate that the proposed study will make use of longitudinal data and cannot be carried out in samples obtained from another source*
- *Scientific strength, novelty and potential health/social impact of the research proposal must sufficiently justify use of longitudinal study samples.*
- *Evidence must be provided to show methodology is appropriate to the processing history of the samples. e.g. published literature or pilot data.*
- *The assay test platform should have proven quality assurance measures in place, preferably NHS accredited or externally audited.*
- *For all assays the volume of sample consumed by the assay will also be considered in light of the potential impact of the study.*
- *The methodology should include measures to ensure the quality of any remaining sample is not jeopardised and can be used in further assays.*
- *Sampling strategies should be optimized as appropriate to maintain the value of the resource.*
- *At least one aliquot of each sample type should be reserved for future global discovery projects.*
- *Formal peer review is required.*

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The summary guidelines are subject to review and approval by the METADAC Committeee.

These summary guidelines were adapted for use in multiple studies from the 1958 Birth Cohort Biosample Strategy Guidelines (2013) authored by Naveed Sattar and Paul Welsh, University of Glasgow; Helen Colhoun, University of Dundee and Susan Ring, University of Bristol