

Policy on the collection of blood samples for research or teaching

Blood for research purposes and the Human Tissue Act

The Human Tissue Act 2004 regulates the storage and use of human tissue for research purposes. It applies to human tissue whether or not it is sourced from the NHS. Human tissue includes blood, human primary cells and other material, other than gametes, which consists of or includes human cells (for further information on what constitutes human tissue, see the Human Tissue Authority's list of [relevant materials](#)). Failure to comply with the Act can lead to imprisonment and/or a fine.

The legislation requires that the storage of human tissue for research purposes must be done either under a licence issued by [Human Tissue Authority](#) as part of a project which has received ethical approval from an NHS Research Ethics Committee (NHS REC). Storage includes storage for any length of time. University research ethics committees like Greenwich's University Research

academic or technician in charge of either the research project or teaching provision.

1.5 No one should work with his or her own blood.

2. Records and storage

2.1 A record of donations, the total collected, the purpose for which the blood was used and accurate disposal records should be maintained by either: the academic or technician in charge of teaching provision or, in the case of research projects, the academic in charge of the project or the Principal Investigator (PI).

Research Ethics Board) are not authorised to give ethical approval for the storage of human tissue (including blood) for research purposes. Ethical approval should be sought from an NHS Research Ethics Board through [RAS](#). A copy of the approval should be provided to the University Research Ethics Board.

4. Blood-borne infection

- 4.1 The University has a duty to protect staff and students from accidental contamination with contagious blood borne disease such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. All people coming into contact with human blood should have been immunised against hepatitis B and have a current booster vaccination (*i.e.* less than 5 years since last booster). The cost of doing this should be covered under the same criteria applied to training (see section 1.2.1).

Approved by the University Research Ethics Board: July 2023
Date of next review: June 2024
Documentowner: University Secretary