

CONSENT FOR RETENTION & USE OF ORGANS AND TISSUE FROM A POST MORTEM EXAMINATION ORDERED BY THE CORONER

Name of deceased:

Date of birth: Date of death:

Hospital Number:

Consultant who cared for the patient:

About this form

The coroner has asked our pathologist to carry out a post mortem examination on the person named above to establish the cause of his or her death. During the post mortem our pathologist may, at the request of the coroner, take and keep (retain) tissue samples and/or organs for more detailed study. This form allows you to decide what should happen to these samples or organs once they are no longer needed for examination. In it we explain the potential uses for samples and the options for their disposal.

In the accompanying booklet we explain more about the post mortem examination. If you have any questions or need any further information please do not hesitate to ask.

Retention and further use of tissue samples

As part of a full or limited post mortem examination tissue samples and small amounts of bodily fluids may be taken and used to determine the diagnosis and extent of the disease. Bodily fluids will usually be disposed of following a diagnosis. However, the tissue samples removed during a post mortem examination can be stored for use in the future.

The storage of the tissue and their later use require your consent. The samples can be valuable for the education and training of healthcare professionals, research and other purposes.

Samples taken during post mortem examinations not only help us to understand how the person died but can also help us to understand more about disease and treatments.

With your permission we can use the samples taken during the examination for:

- Education or training relating to human health: Our Trust trains many different groups of healthcare staff. Samples can be very helpful in their learning process.*
- Quality assurance, audit and service development: We can use samples to help us check that our laboratory processes are working correctly and effectively and to help us develop new tests.*
- Public health surveillance: We can use samples to see how frequently diseases or conditions occur in the population as a whole.*

• *Research: Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust conducts a great deal of research into heart and lung disease. Sometimes we share samples with other healthcare organisations, universities, or commercial companies. The work – all of which must be approved by an ethics committee – helps us to understand more about diseases, why they occur, and how to diagnose and treat them better.*

- I **do not** consent to tissue samples, blocks and slides being retained beyond the requirements of the Coroner.
- I consent to tissue samples, blocks and slides being retained and used for education or training relating to human health, quality assurance, public health surveillance or clinical audit.
- I consent to tissue samples, blocks and slides being retained and used for research that has been approved by an appropriate ethics committee.
- I consent to DNA analysis of the retained tissue samples for the purpose of research that has been approved by an appropriate ethics committee.

Please tick all relevant boxes.

Retention of organs:

During the examination we may take organs for detailed examination. You can decide if we may continue to keep them and how they can be used.

- I consent to the retention of the following organs.
 Heart Lungs Other (please specify).....
- I **do not** consent to the retention to any organs beyond the requirements of the coroner.

Consent to further use of retained organs

Again, with your permission we can use any organs retained after the post-mortem for education or training relating to human health, quality assurance, audit and service development, public health surveillance and research.

- Not applicable
- I consent to the retained organs being used for education or training relating to human health, quality assurance, public health surveillance or clinical audit.
- I consent to the retained organs being used for research that has been approved by an appropriate ethics committee.
- I consent to DNA analysis of the retained organs for the purpose of research that has been approved by an appropriate ethics committee

Please tick all relevant boxes.

The disposal of retained tissue and organs

Once we have completed our use of any retained (kept) organs or tissue samples, we will in due course either dispose of them or return them to your funeral director.

- I wish the hospital to lawfully dispose of any retained organs/ tissue samples.

- I wish for retained organs/ tissue samples to be returned to my chosen funeral director for burial/cremation.

Other requirements of the examination

Do you have any particular requests or concerns? (Hospital staff should also document here any special consents sought for this case)

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Further questions

If you have any questions about this form, the booklet or the post mortem examination, please do not hesitate to ask the patient support coordinator.

You can change your mind about any of the decisions you have made on this form and withdraw your consent. Please do remember, though, that for some of these decisions there is a very limited time in which you can change your mind.

If you wish to make changes to what you have agreed to on this consent form, please telephone Patient Support Coordinator on 020 7352 8121 and key in ext.2268 (Royal Brompton) or 01895 828638 (Harefield) as soon as possible.

Continued overleaf

Signature of person giving consent:

- I have been offered written information on post mortem examination.
- I confirm that my questions about the post mortem examination have been answered to my satisfaction and understanding.

Signature¹

Signed:

Name:

Address:

.....

Relationship to the deceased:

Date:

In the presence of:

Name of Witness²

Signature:

Address:

Details of person seeking consent:

Name

Job title

Contact details

I confirm that I have explained the post mortem procedure, explained the terms tissue samples, blocks and slides, and checked for objections to retention of tissues and organs as indicated. I have also discussed any special requests or conditions concerning the post mortem procedure.

I confirm that I have checked that the person consenting is the appropriate person for the purposes of the Human Tissue Act 2004.

Where appropriate, I have discussed the requirements of the examination with

..... ***[Insert name of pathologist]***

Signed..... Date.....

Original copy of consent form to be given to person giving consent, copy to be taken with notes to histopathology.

¹ Who may give consent? A 'nominated representative' may have been appointed by the patient to make decisions on their behalf. Where the wishes of the deceased are not known and there is no nominated representative, someone in a qualifying relationship may give consent to post mortem examination. The ranking for this process is: (i) spouse or partner (including civil or same sex partner); (ii) parent or child (in this context a child can be any age); (iii) brother or sister; (iv) grandparent or grandchild; (v) niece or nephew; (vi) stepfather or stepmother; (vii) half-brother or half-sister; (viii) friend of long standing.

² Witness may be anyone who is not a member of your family, e.g. friend, neighbour or member of hospital staff