Policy for transfer of existing specimen collections to IVRN

Overall aim: To facilitate strategic immunology and virology research in relation to Australians with BBVs.

Structure: The IVRN includes three components: IVRN Network laboratories (the Network), a Central Specimen Repository, and a Laboratory QA program (QAP).

Scope: As outlined in the Operational Strategic Plan for the Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research (ACH4) (see https://www.ach4.org.au).

Purpose: To provide guidelines by which the IVRN will assume responsibility for existing sample sets collected from patients with BBVs that are relevant to the areas of strategy research.

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

1. accordance with National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategies 2018-2022 (https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-bbvs-1);
2. quality of the specimens and the associated dataset (clinical and laboratory);
3. extent to which samples collected will be made broadly available to other Australian investigators via the Network;
4. competing demands on the resources of the IVRN Central Specimen Repository.

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

Documentation of the original human research ethics approval, Participant Information Statement and Consent Form (PISC), 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.

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