

Press Release

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The Council of Europe adopts a recommendation on research on biological materials of human origin

Strasbourg, 16.03.2006 - The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has just adopted a recommendation to member states on research on biological materials of human origin.

The text applies to two situations in particular:

- research using biological materials kept at hospitals;
- research using biological materials kept in population biobanks.

The recommendation offers guidelines on the provision of information to, and obtaining of consent from, the persons concerned, prior independent scrutiny of the research project, and action relating to the security of the biological materials and the confidentiality of personal data; it also lays down the conditions in which such material may be transferred to other countries for use in research.

The text also contains rules about the governance of collections of biological materials and population biobanks.

As the first international text in this sphere, the recommendation supplements the provisions of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning biomedical research ([CETS No. 195](#)). The recommendation is to be re-examined within five years.

The [Text of the recommendation](#) is available at <http://www.coe.int>

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