

Guideline on Using Information and Data Gathered by Official Units of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, and Medical Universities

This guideline serves as a supplementary document for other national regulations and guidelines for medical research, in order to clarify and facilitate access to health data and information for research purposes.

١. All health data and information gathered under public governmental funding through regular programs of the related departments, and stored in the official units of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, or equivalent units in medical universities, shall be made accessible to interested lead researchers, whose research proposals have been approved by a research ethics committee with a national identification code, and recognized by the National Committee for Ethics in Biomedical Research. Access denial and the reasons therefor shall be announced in written form to the applying researcher(s).

Note: This Guideline shall not apply to the data gathered under approved researches, and their publication shall depend on agreements between research sponsor(s) and executor(s).

٢. Holding official positions, such as director, expert, etc. in any of the mentioned departments or units shall not automatically entitle that person to be included among the authors of articles or similar scientific works. Any pressure on the researcher(s) to include among the authors people who lack the authorial criteria stipulated in the Ethical Guidelines for Research Publication shall be prohibited and prosecuted as abuse of power.
٣. All data and information subject to this guideline shall be made irreversibly anonymized, and then accessible to the interested researcher(s).
٤. This guideline shall not apply to confidential information. Classification of information as "confidential" shall be conducted during data gathering, and by a competent authority, and/or in accordance with relevant regulations. Otherwise,

confidentiality may not be presented as a ground for denying access to information for the interested researcher(s).

This guideline in 4 paragraphs was approved by the Tenth Session of the National Committee for Ethics in Biomedical Research, on 10 February 2016.
