

# Rangahau e pa ana ki te Maori

## Nga ahuatanga mo te whakakahore me te pupuri i nga tauira me nga kowaewae

### *Research Involving Maori*

#### *Guidelines for Disposal or Retention of Samples and Specimens*

#### **Definition:**

*Sample* – any body part, tissue sample, or specimen of bodily fluid collected from the research participant.

Various ethnic groups in our community have specific views regarding the handling and disposal of human samples collected for clinical testing and for research. To encourage all ethnic groups to participate in research conducted by researchers of the University of Otago, Christchurch (UOC), and particularly Maori, the following guidelines have been developed to ensure consistency with cultural practices.

If the research involves collection of whole body parts (limbs or whole organs e.g. tonsils, placenta) the offer to return the body part should be made to the research participant/whanau. In this case additional instructions for the researcher are marked with an asterisk (\*).

#### **For the collection of any samples:**

1. Written approval from the Regional or Multi-Region Ethics Committee must be obtained before collecting samples from any members of the public.
2. Explicit signed consent must be obtained from the individual (or authorised family/whanau).
3. The consent form for the project should contain the following phrases:
  - I consent to the researchers storing a specimen of my blood (or other tissue) for its later use as a part of this study or other research approved by the Regional Ethics Committee. YES/NO
  - I consent to any remaining samples being disposed of using standard disposal methods at the end of the study. YES/NO
  - I would like any remaining samples to be disposed of at the end of the study (please tick one):
    - Using standard disposal methods
    - Disposed with appropriate karakia

#### ***(If applicable)***

- \*I wish to have my donated body part returned to me at the end of the study YES/NO
4. The Information Sheets for the project should contain the following:
    - Clearly explain the number and type of samples to be taken.
    - Explain why the tests or procedures are necessary.
    - Explain what will happen to samples after the study is concluded.
    - Explain the nature of standard disposal methods (disposal in accordance with NZS 4304:2002 'Healthcare Waste Management').
    - Explain that there are two methods of disposal and participants may choose to have their remaining samples disposed of using standard disposal methods or disposed of with appropriate karakia, at the end of the study.

- \*Inform the participants that they have the option of having their body part returned at the end of the study (if applicable).
5. Samples to be disposed of with appropriate karakia (blessing): all tubes or containers holding these samples should be identified at the time of collection with a special identification sticker using the following design (this design may be copied from this document and pasted into a file for printing tube labels or the gif file for the design can be downloaded from: <http://whakaahua.maori.org.nz/kowhai.htm> or contact the Research Office).



(By courtesy of Maori.org.nz)

\*The Principal Investigator of each research project will be responsible for identifying and tracking body parts for subsequent return, if requested.

6. For disposal of identified Maori samples (i.e samples taken from research participants who have requested to have 'remaining samples disposed with appropriate karakia' on the consent form) - at the end of the study the samples will be retained for the ceremony with appropriate karakia, then be disposed of immediately thereafter.
7. For any subsequent dissemination of Maori samples (e.g. to other labs participating in the study), those samples should also be identified with the appropriate sticker. The lab in receipt of the samples must be informed that any remaining sample material should be returned to the disseminating lab after testing is completed, or by a certain date, whichever comes first.
8. At the end of the study, the Principal Investigator named on the Ethics Approval must ensure that all remaining sample(s) identified as requiring disposal with appropriate karakia are forwarded to the UOC Laboratory Manager, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor UOC, to be stored for the next ceremony. Please notify the Research Office on ext 80237 before forwarding any samples to allow arrangements to be made for storage (-20° freezer, Paul Christensen has the key).
9. If researchers have any queries about these guidelines, please contact the Research Manager-Maori at the University of Otago, Christchurch.