Participating in Research

Information on the Use of Health Data for Research Purposes and General Consent to Research

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Our ability to provide the care our patients need relies on the sustained effort of medical research in which several generations of scientists, clinicians, and patients have actively participated.

A significant part of this research relies on the use of patients' clinical data found in medical records, such as assessment results, diagnoses, and psychiatric treatments.

This information document explains how you can contribute to the advancement of psychiatry. It provides explanations regarding the protection of your data and your rights.

Thank you for your interest and attention.

An approach based on mutual trust

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH?

You can contribute to research by agreeing that your data be stored, transmitted, and reused for research purposes. The data includes that which has been collected in the past and that which will be collected for your care during your current and future stays and consultations at the Fondation de Nant.

Your consent is voluntary.

It remains valid indefinitely or until a potential withdrawal. You can withdraw your consent at any time without having to justify your decision. To do so, simply inform the healthcare professional looking after you (doctor, nurse, or psychologist).

If you decide not to participate in research by checking «NO» at point A, your clinical data cannot be used for research.

If you do not sign the consent form, meaning if you do not respond, the law provides that data may exceptionally be used for research after authorization by the competent ethics committee. It is therefore important for you to express your choice.

Your decision has no effect on your care.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU WITHDRAW YOUR CONSENT?

In this case, your data intended for research is destroyed, subject to legal requirements. It will therefore no longer be available for new research projects. This does not apply to data already used.

HOW IS YOUR HEALTH DATA PROTECTED?

Data is recorded at the Fondation de Nant and protected in compliance with current legal requirements*. Only authorized staff, such as doctors, nurses, or psychologists in charge of your care, have access to your data in identified form.

If your data is used for a research project, it is coded or anonymized.

- The term «coded» means that all personal information (for example, your name or date of birth) is replaced by a code. The key that links the code to each individual is kept securely by a person not involved in the research project. Individuals who do not possess the coding key are unable to identify you.
- The term «anonymized» means that the link between the associated data and the individual is permanently broken. According to the law, data is considered anonymized when it cannot be linked to a specific person without disproportionate effort. In principle, it is no longer possible to identify the person concerned, even if absolute anonymization cannot be guaranteed. Once data is anonymized, its use cannot be prevented if the person concerned withdraws their consent. Nor can the person be informed of any research results relevant to their health. Similarly, anonymized data is not destroyed if consent is withdrawn.

The majority of research projects use coded data, especially when they can generate results relevant to the health of the individuals concerned.

The rights related to the protection of your data in research are the same as those in healthcare, particularly the right to access your personal data.

WHO CAN USE YOUR HEALTH DATA?

Your data can be used by researchers who have received authorization from the competent research ethics committee. Research projects are conducted within the hospital or in collaboration with other public institutions (other hospitals or universities, for example) and private entities (pharmaceutical companies, for example) in Switzerland or abroad.

The transmission of data abroad for research purposes is only possible if the data protection conditions in the destination country are at least equivalent to those applied in Switzerland.

WILL YOU BE INFORMED OF RESEARCH RESULTS?

Research conducted with your data will not reveal any individual health information. If our research leads to published scientific results, we will be happy to share them with you upon request.

DOES YOUR PARTICIPATION INCUR COSTS OR FINANCIAL BENEFITS?

Your participation does not incur any additional costs for you or your insurance. The law prohibits the commercialization of data. Therefore, no financial benefit will be generated for you or for the hospital.

The use
of health data

Your decision

YOU CAN COMMUNICATE YOUR DECISION BY COMPLETING AND SIGNING THE CONSENT FORM.
The consent form includes two steps:

1) After entering your first name, last name, and date of birth, indicate whether you accept or refuse the use of your health data for research purposes.

2) Sign and date the declaration to confirm your decision.

Once you've completed the consent form, you can send it back to us by mailing it to the address provided below.

Fondation de Nant
Route de Nant 15
1804 Corsier-sur-Vevey

If you have any questions or wish to withdraw your consent, don't hesitate to contact us at the addresses below. If your question requires it, you'll be put in touch with a clinician involved in the research.

B yr email :
consentement.recherche@nant.ch

By post :
Fondation de Nant
Route de Nant 15
1804 Corsier-sur-Vevey

By phone :
021 965 70 00
Mon-Fri 8am-12am and 1pm-4pm

Fondation de Nant
Site de Nant
1804 Corsier-sur-Vevey
T +41 21 965 70 00
E consentement.recherche@nant.ch

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