

Dear Practice Manager

UK Biobank is an international resource for health research. A registered charity funded by the Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust and supported by the NHS, UK Biobank is following the health of 500,000 volunteers in the UK who agreed to join the project. Each participant gave consent for UK Biobank to receive a copy of their medical and other health-related records for research purposes, in identifiable form.

UK Biobank is already providing approved scientists with a wide range of anonymised data and samples to study the interaction of genes, lifestyle and environment in causing a wide range of diseases (such as cancer, heart disease, dementia, diabetes, depression and arthritis).

Participants from throughout England, Wales and Scotland joined the project voluntarily between 2006-2010. During their assessment visit each participant underwent a wide range of baseline measures and provided signed informed consent for UK Biobank to use their data for its expressed purposes, including the long-term follow-up of their health through their NHS records (see www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/general-practice)

Since 2010, UK Biobank has established linkages to national death and cancer registries and to national hospital data electronic record systems. With the support of GP practices, we are already linking to primary care records from a large and ever-increasing proportion of participants in Wales and Scotland.

Following a careful review of UK Biobank's Ethics and Governance Framework, information governance and ethics approvals, and data security, followed up by presentations and discussions at the May 2014 SystemOne National User Group (SNUG) Conference with Professor Cathie Sudlow, UK Biobank Chief Scientist, it was unanimously agreed by the attendees that SystemOne should work with UK Biobank to extract coded primary care data for all consented UK Biobank participants with data held on SystemOne. UK Biobank also has the support of the Royal College of General Practitioners in this endeavour.

We plan to undertake this linkage and data extraction process in about one month's time. We would like to reassure you that:

- UK Biobank only releases anonymised data for the purpose of health-related research for the benefit of the public;
- no identifiable data for any health care professional are being requested;
- identifiable data for participants will only be used by UK Biobank for the purposes of linking primary care data to the other data that we hold.

You can read more information about UK Biobank at:

www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/general-practice

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed linkage please contact us either via phone on 0800 0 276 276, or by email ukbiobank@ukbiobank.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Cathie Sudlow
Chief Scientist
UK Biobank

Dr Maureen Baker
Chair of Council
RCGP

Dr John Parry
Clinical Director
TPP