



Consent for Tissue

Collecting, storing and using human tissue

Monday 6th September 2010 (2pm - 4pm)

This course will provide information on the ethical and legal principles of consent to collect, use and store human tissue. Group discussions will focus the consent requirements using 'real-life' scenarios involving the collection and use of human tissue from patients, healthy volunteers and colleagues.

Who will benefit from this course?

Anyone working with human tissue - this includes all scientists, clinical scientists, technicians as well as those collecting and transferring tissue to research laboratories (e.g. research nurses). Anyone who takes consent from patients or healthy volunteers to collect, store and use tissue for research studies.

By the end of this course you will:

1. Understand the ethical concept of 'autonomy'.
2. Know and understand the three common law principles of consent: exploring what is meant by 'voluntary', 'informed' and 'competent'.
3. Have an overview of what human tissue legislation in Scotland demands in terms of consent to collect, store and use samples of human tissue (from the living and the dead).
4. Understand what common law requires in terms of consent when collecting tissue from living humans (patients, healthy volunteers and colleagues).
5. Know how to recruit vulnerable individuals to studies involving the collection, storage and use of tissue.
6. Understand how consent should be indicated.
7. Know where to go for help and further guidance on consent to take part in research.

Learning methods

1. PowerPoint presentations with interactive discussion - 45 min (Ethical and legal principles of consent to collect, use and store human tissue).
2. Workshop activities - working through the consent requirements in a few specific 'real life' scenarios involving the collection and use of tissue from patients, healthy volunteers and colleagues.

This training will not cover the details of GCP (Good Clinical Practice) with respect to required documentation or precise wording to be used in consent forms. However brief consideration of how consent can be indicated will be given, and will be explored in light of what consent means (both ethically and in law).

Course Tutors: Dr Rachel Smith, Programme Manager (Training and Partnerships)
Medical Research Council (MRC) Regulatory Support Centre, Edinburgh

Course fee: £25

Venue: Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh

For more information, please see our website or contact:

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