

To retain or to terminate? A national guide for the evaluation of biobank collections

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Introduction

Human biological materials, such as blood, urine, or tissue, are extensively collected for scientific research purposes. Biobank collections often have long retention periods, which can result in collections being unnecessarily retained. This affects the storage capacity of the central biobank facility and leads to high costs.

An evaluation could help to assess whether longer storage is necessary for future research. Such an evaluation may include the assessment of the suitability (**FIT**) and scientific value/potential (**PURPOSE**) of the collection, which is based on ethical, legal, societal and/or technical considerations, such as quality of the samples and availability of (meta)data. Additionally, (future) use of the collection and available resources (e.g. budgets) are relevant.

Evaluation may result in **retainment**, **termination** or **transfer** of the collection to third parties.

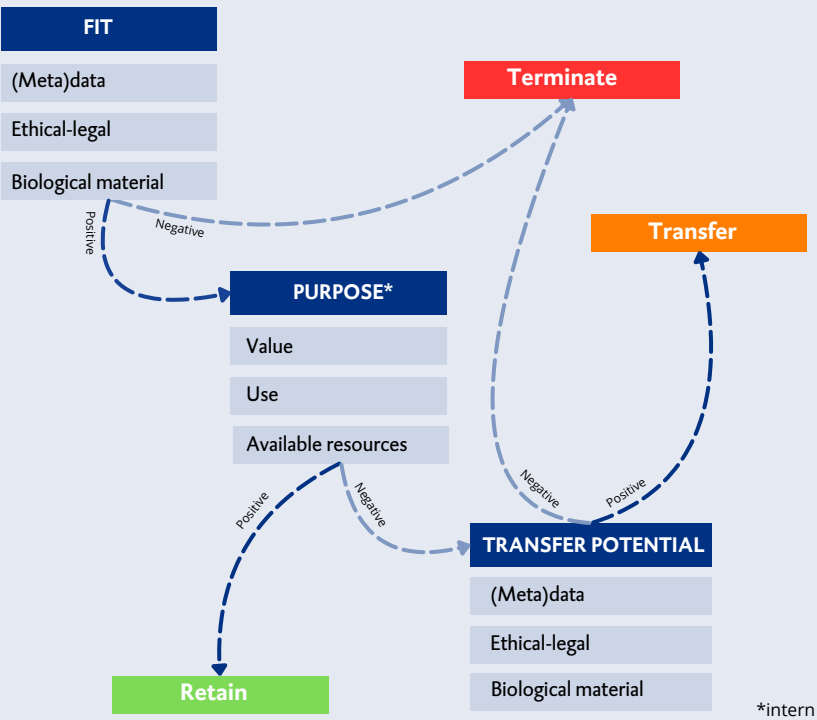
Objective & Methodology

The objective is to develop a national guideline for evaluations of biobank collections. Individual research institutions can use this guideline to implement local policy.

The guideline, including flowcharts to evaluate **FIT**, **PURPOSE** and **TRANSFER POTENTIAL**, will be developed by the Health-RI theme Biobank & Collections and BBMRI-NL, together with scientific experts within the field of biobanking.

The guideline will present various considerations, criteria, and implementation directions regarding the decision whether to retain, terminate or transfer biobank collections.

Evaluation (periodic and interim)



Conclusion

The guideline will provide practical support and food for thought for individual researchers and research institutions in the implementation of biobank collection evaluation policy in scientific research.

The guideline is part of Health-RI and stakeholders' larger mission to transform these guidelines into an improved infrastructure for collections of human biological samples and associated data for scientific research. The guideline will be published online.



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