

HBS Governance Council Position

AstraZeneca External HBS Public Policy Position

Approved on behalf of HBS Governance Council/ Board

HBS Governance Council Position Effective Date:	01/04/2026
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AstraZeneca has an internal global governance framework that guides the acquisition, storage, use, and disposal of human biological samples and associated data for research, experimental, clinical, and diagnostic development purposes. Our policies and processes are rigorously implemented to ensure donated samples are handled responsibly and ethically. We place strong emphasis on informed consent to protect the rights and expectations of participants/donors and their families throughout acquisition, use, storage, and disposal, while enabling important medical research.

AstraZeneca ensures that informed consent documents clearly explain what the participant is agreeing to and are designed to safeguard the participant's wishes and rights. In many cases, the additional specific future uses of samples may not be known at the time of donation; participants are therefore informed that they are providing generic consent and this can be optional.

No human biological sample may be acquired unless it comes from an approved source with appropriate ethical approval procedures in place. AstraZeneca policy is that samples obtained for research and development are acquired with the informed consent of the participant/donor (or an appointed representative) and must only be used in accordance with that consent, which describes the nature and purpose of the sample donation and any associated risks and benefits. AstraZeneca may seek access to rare, hard-to-find and historical samples where original consent for research is absent as different standards and processes were/are in place for consenting. In such cases and where no equivalent consented HBS is available, AstraZeneca will seek ethical approval from an appropriate Research Ethics Committee.

If research using a sample is expected to generate important validated findings that could be important to the participant, the approach to handling such findings will be described during the informed consent process. Where donors have the option to be notified of such research results, their preference—their right to know or not to know—will be respected.

Samples and data may be transferred to third parties for scientific research, in accordance with the consent. Responsibilities will be defined in a written agreement.

Participants may withdraw their consent for use of a human biological sample at any time after donation, provided the sample has not been anonymized. AstraZeneca will locate and dispose of, or return, all unused samples. AstraZeneca will not usually destroy results already generated from the use of the samples.

AstraZeneca does not pay participants for samples or offer financial incentives to provide samples but follows the usual practice of payment of financial compensation for participation in studies

Protecting donor confidentiality is of the utmost importance. Samples and associated data (including genetic data) are coded so that researchers cannot trace a sample back to an individual donor without extreme and inappropriate effort.

Version	Description of Change
1.0	Transfer of legacy AstraZeneca Global Public Policy Issue: Human Biological Samples in Research v4 December 2014 from policy template to new HBS Governance Council Policy Position Template. Updated relevant grammar and terms as per current AZ Global HBS Standard.
2.0	Minor update - formatting