



Mass evaluation of lateral flow immunoassays (at home finger prick antibody tests) for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 antibody responses in immunosuppressed people

The MELODY Study Fair Processing Notice

This page explains how the MELODY study is processing information fairly and lawfully.

Who has been invited?

A random sample of 36,000 adults who have received a solid organ transplant, or who have been identified by the National Disease Registration Service (NDRS) as someone who may have a rare autoimmune disease or a form of blood cancer have been invited to take part in the study.

How did you get my name and address?

Your name was chosen at random from the lists of people who either:

- Have had an organ transplant held by NHS Blood and Transplant
- May have a rare autoimmune disease or cancer which is usually treated with immunosuppressive treatment held by the National Disease Registration Service (NDRS).

The Health Research Authority (HRA), following advice from the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG), provided support which allows NHS Digital to send your identifiable patient information to Ipsos Mori for the purposes of inviting you to this study.

I have one of the conditions being researched but haven't received an invitation to participate. Why not?

We have 36,000 antibody test kits for the MELODY study, which is enough to achieve valid results but not enough for everyone with these conditions to

participate. Invitations have therefore gone out to a random sample of those people that are eligible.

I don't have one of the conditions being researched but I have received an invitation to participate. Why is this, and what can I do?

We apologise if you have received an invitation letter saying that you have been invited to participate because you may have a rare autoimmune disease or blood cancer and you think you should not have been sent this invitation. If you wish, please contact nhsdigital.melodystudy@nhs.net or by post: MELODY study, NDRS, 2nd floor, The Government Hub, 23 St Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4BH.

We will try to work out why you have been invited and make sure that any errors in the data that identified you as being eligible are corrected or deleted. We will also try to make sure that you are not sent any further study reminders. If a reminder has already been sent out, please ignore it when it arrives.

Legal and ethical aspects

The MELODY study has a legal basis and ethical approval. The legal basis to allow the disclosure of confidential patient information for the purpose of inviting people to the MELODY study under Regulation 5 of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 ('section 251 support') was established by application to the Confidentiality Advisory Group and the approval of the Health Research Authority (CAG reference: 22/CAG/0004). Ethical approval was granted by the London – Central Research Ethics Committee (REC reference: 21/HRA/4858).

Have the national data opts out been applied?

Yes. The national data opt outs have been applied by NHS Digital before the study invitations were sent. If you wish to opt out of your confidential patient information being used for research and planning, please visit <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out>. If you wish to opt out of the National Disease Registration Service specifically please visit <https://www.ndrs.nhs.uk/patients/opting-out/>

If you would like to find out more, please visit the MELODY study website: <https://melodystudy.org/>