

HUMAN BIOMATERIALS RESOURCE CENTRE

Information Sheet for Children under 8 Years Old

Note to the reader

Please read the whole sheet yourself before reading this to your child, and choose the most appropriate words to use.

Introduction

Scientists want to find out why children get ill. They also want to find out how to make better medicines and treatments.

They need to do special tests, called 'research', on small samples from children who have illnesses like yours.

Lots of children like you are being asked to give a small sample, like a little bit of blood. These samples will be kept in a 'tissue bank'.

A 'tissue bank' is like a big piggybank, but where each coin is a sample that is kept in a special place until the scientists need it for research.

When the scientists use your sample, they will not know it is from you.

What are we asking you to do?

We are asking you to say 'Yes' or 'No' to the question: "Can we have some samples for scientists to do research?"

We are also asking you to say 'Yes' or 'No' to the question: "Can we know a bit about your illness too?"

We may ask you more than once. If you can't answer this question today or as you grow up, we will ask your mum or dad, or whoever looks after you.

Why are we asking you?

Scientists want to find out new things about your illness, or because few people have your illness.

Do you have to say 'Yes'?

NO, YOU DO NOT. It is up to you.

If you say 'Yes' we will remember this.

If you say 'No' or 'Not today', nobody will mind, and your treatment will be the same.

What happens if you change your mind?

If you say 'Yes' now, and later you want to say 'No' or 'Never again', just tell your mum or dad, or whoever looks after you, or your doctor. Nobody will mind, and your treatment will still be the same.

If you say 'Never again', we will remember this. Any samples we have kept for scientists will be thrown away.

What should you do now?

Please talk to your mum or dad, or whoever looks after you, about what we are asking you to do.

Your doctors and nurses will also be happy to talk about it, if you would like to talk to them. When you are a grown-up, please talk to your doctors or nurses about it anyway.