

Certificate of Confidentiality (CoC)

Summary Information

This research holds a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health.

What is a Certificate of Confidentiality?

With this Certificate, the researchers may not disclose or use information, documents, or biospecimens that may identify a research subject in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other action, suit, or proceeding, or be used as evidence, for example, if there is a court subpoena, unless the subject has consented for this use. Information, documents, or biospecimens protected by this Certificate cannot be disclosed to anyone else who is not connected with the research. A Certificate of Confidentiality does not prevent a research subject from voluntarily releasing information about them self or their involvement in this research.

When are the researchers allowed by the CoC policy to disclose subject information?

- If there is a federal, state, or local law that requires disclosure (such as to report child abuse or communicable diseases).
- If the subject has consented to the disclosure, including for medical treatment. If a subject wants their research information released to an insurer, medical care provider, or any other person not connected with the research, they must provide consent to allow the researchers to release it.
- If it is used for other scientific research, as allowed by federal regulations protecting research subjects.

When may the researchers disclose subject research information for this study?

- If the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, the agency funding this research, requests information to audit or evaluate our procedures.
- If the University of Michigan or government offices requests information for making sure the research is done safely and properly.

The CoC will not be used to prevent disclosure for any purpose you have consented to, as described in this informed consent document. This includes sharing the following information for linking with administrative records:

- your signature on consent forms to release administrative records, including one relating to health information and one relating to administrative records more generally,
- your full legal name and date of birth,
- the full legal names, dates of birth, and place of birth for your children (if you have any),
- your social security number
- your street address, and
- your telephone number.

[More detailed information about Certificates may be found at the IH CoC kiosk.](#)