Applications & procedure
Authorisation of research projects

Human research projects that require/do not require authorisation

No authorisation is required for projects using anonymised data, whereas projects that use traceable data and those that actively induce an effect among participants do require authorisation.
Applications & procedure

Projects that do not require authorisation

Human research projects that do not require authorisation

Projects that work with anonymised data sets or anonymised samples do not require authorisation. Donors of biological material or genetic data are informed about the anonymisation. They have the option of refusing to allow any use of their data by filing an objection to the anonymisation and thus to the further use of their data.
Applications & procedure
Research projects involving persons that require authorisation

Research projects involving persons can be divided into two groups – the type of effect they have on participants determines the assigned category.
Applications & procedure

Research projects in the area of further use that require authorisation

post hoc consent

The researcher contacts the persons concerned directly to obtain post hoc consent for the further use of their health-related data or biological material.
Applications & procedure
Research projects in the area of further use that require authorisation

proxy consent

If it is not possible for the researcher to contact the persons concerned directly, he or she may obtain proxy consent for the further use of the material from the ethics committee.
Applications & procedure
Submission of applications

Submission of applications for human research projects involving persons

Depending on the type of research project, the application must be submitted to one or several ethics committees as well as, if applicable, to Swissmedic and the FOPH.
Applications & procedure

Submission of applications

In case of multiple research sites:
Submission after formal review by the lead committee.

Submission of applications for human research projects without persons:
Depending on the type of research project, the application must be submitted to one or several ethics committees.