

National Healthcare Group (NHG)

Information Sheet for Tissue Donors on Management of Incidental Findings

1. What is an Incidental Finding?

Incidental finding is a finding that has potential health or reproductive importance to the research subject and is discovered in the course of conducting research but is unrelated to the purposes, objectives or variables of the study.

2. How and when are Incidental Findings discovered?

If you had donated your tissue for future research studies, researchers who use your donated tissue for their studies may discover incidental findings during the course of the future research.

3. Will I be informed about Incidental Findings discovered as a result of my tissue donation?

Yes, you will be notified if you had indicated your desire to be informed of Incidental Findings by signing the Informed Consent Form (ICF) prior to tissue donation. Only findings that may have important implications to your health would be returned to you.

**If your preference to receive such information is unknown, you will be contacted to ascertain if you wish to be informed should findings that impact your health be discovered.*

4. How will I be informed of the Incidental Finding?

If you had agreed to be informed of Incidental Findings, the Tissue Custodian or an appropriate healthcare provider would contact you to discuss on the findings and provide the necessary advice.

5. What should I do if I am informed of an Incidental Finding?

You are advised to seek medical attention and confirm the incidental finding in an accredited clinical laboratory / facility.

6. Will there be costs involved?

The costs for any care that will be needed to diagnose or treat an incidental finding will not be paid for by the research studies. You will have to bear the costs of these additional tests or treatments.

7. If I do not wish to receive any Incidental Findings, will I still be contacted?

We will respect your wishes and will not contact you unless in the rare situation where the incidental finding has public health implications, and we are required by law to inform you (e.g. Infectious Disease Act, Public Health Act).

For more information, you may contact the Tissue Custodian or NHG Tissue Compliance Committee at NHGTCCSecretariat@nhg.com.sg