

CentRIC⁺ Data Access Policy¹

Centre for Psychosocial Research in Cancer, School of
Health Sciences, University of Southampton

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Centre for Psychosocial Research in Cancer: CentRIC⁺
Understanding the impact of cancer on everyday lives and supporting people to live well

CentRIC⁺

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¹ This documents is based, with permission, on the Head and Neck 5000 data sharing policy
<http://www.headandneck5000.org.uk/information-for-researchers/usingthedataset/>

CentRIC⁺ Data Access Policy

1. Introduction

This document sets out the data access policy for datasets arising from studies conducted in the Centre for Psychosocial Research in Cancer (CentRIC⁺). CentRIC⁺ is hosted by Health Sciences, University of Southampton. Policies, forms and further information about accessing CentRIC⁺ data are available on the HORIZONS websites at https://www.horizons-hub.org.uk/access_data.html. All completed forms should be submitted to CentRIC@soton.ac.uk. Professor Claire Foster is the CentRIC⁺ director.

2. Dataset Management

The management of datasets are the responsibility of the relevant Study Management Group with oversight from the relevant study advisory committee. From time to time, advice may be sought from other key individuals.

3. Data Sharing Panel

All requests for CentRIC⁺ data will be reviewed in the first instance by the Data Sharing Panel (DSP). The DSP is chaired by Professor Peter Smith, who is employed by CentRIC⁺ to provide senior statistical support. The rest of the membership is made up of academics, clinicians and research partners who are not paid employees of CentRIC⁺. Proposals will be reviewed by three reviewers, with oversight from the Chair, within four weeks of receipt. The DSP will make a recommendation to approve or reject proposals. The final decision to release data to approved proposals lies with the Director or the Chief Investigator of the project.

4. List of proposals

All proposals, both approved and rejected will be listed on the HORIZONS websites, including the reason for rejection, if applicable.

The following sections describe the process of accessing and sharing data and the procedures in place to monitor output.

5. Sharing data with researchers

Data are made available through supported access rather than open access. Only fully anonymised data will be shared with researchers. We may charge investigators for costs incurred in providing a dataset.

6. Submitting a proposal

If you are interested in accessing a dataset, you should first complete the [Preliminary Research Proposal Form](#). A CentRIC⁺ reviewer will review this form and contact you for an informal discussion about your proposal. You will receive a reply within one month to inform you of the outcomes and to provide advice on the next stages which will include completing a more detailed [Research Proposal Form](#). An estimate of the cost of sharing data will be provided if applicable. CentRIC⁺ reserves the right to impose additional restrictions as appropriate.

7. Ethical approval

All proposals need ethical approval. You will need to provide evidence of ethical approval before data can be released. Data provided by external researchers will only include those participants who specifically consent to secondary data analysis.

For specific details about the ethical approvals in place for CentRIC⁺ studies, please see [Checklist for Papers](#) using CentRIC⁺ Datasets.

8. Contract

Before access to a database is provided, your institution will be required to sign a data sharing and confidentiality agreement with the University of Southampton.

9. Data Provision

When your project has been approved, an agreed dataset will be provided to you usually within a month of all paperwork being completed; however some types of data may take longer. You will be responsible for notifying CentRIC⁺ if you experience any technical difficulties accessing the dataset once it has been sent.

You will not be provided with statistical, methodological or other support without prior agreement and this may incur costs.

10. Progress Report

If the project has not been completed within 12 months from the point of receipt of the dataset, the [Research Progress Form](#) must be completed. Progress will be reviewed and a decision made about whether the project can continue (with a new agreed timeframe) or whether the project will terminate and the dataset returned as described in section 13, End of Study.

11. Derived Variables

Any derived variables (such as data obtained as part of a new data collection exercise or newly derived variables coming from secondary analyses) created as part of any research project must be returned to CentRIC+ (CentRIC@soton.ac.uk) with appropriate documentation. By derived variables we mean new variables that have been derived using at least two existing variables (rather than simple recodes) or other variables that do not currently exist in the dataset that may be of use to other collaborators. These may be incorporated into the main dataset and, with appropriate permissions, be made available to other researchers once the protected period of approved use ended. Failure to return derived variables may risk future access to datasets.

12. Paper submission and Publication

The Director and project Chief Investigator, and where appropriate one or more nominated member(s) of CentRIC+, should be included as an author on any paper using CentRIC+ data. The designated author from CentRIC+ will read the paper to provide advice and feedback, check confidentiality is protected and to ensure that the paper will not bring CentRIC+ into disrepute.

All papers must be sent to CentRIC+ for approval at least 30 days prior to submission (CentRIC@soton.ac.uk), along with a completed [Checklist for Papers](#) using CentRIC+ Datasets. The CentRIC+ team will usually process all papers within one month of receipt.

Researchers should let CentRIC+ know when a paper is accepted and send through an electronic copy for the final published version (CentRIC@soton.ac.uk). If your work on the dataset was funded by bodies that require open access to publications arising from their funding, it is your responsibility to ensure papers are freely available.

All papers submitted will be sent to the study funders. We request that we are provided with an electronic copy of any reports and other publications that use CentRIC+ datasets as soon as possible and within a month of completion. We request that we are provided with an electronic copy of any theses that use a CentRIC+ dataset as soon as possible after a degree is awarded. We do not need to see conference submissions prior to submission but a copy should be sent to CentRIC+ once accepted (CentRIC@soton.ac.uk).

13. Publicity policy

All press releases on research arising from the dataset should be seen and approved by the CentRIC+ Director or project Chief Investigator, or their nominated representative (CentRIC@soton.ac.uk). We may, in partnership with the dataset funder, write press releases on certain articles and expect the lead author on the paper and host organisation's public relations team to be available to deal with media enquiries and interviews. We may also ask authors to prepare a précis of important papers to include in reports to funders and future applications for future core support.

The CentRIC+ team will usually process all press releases within one month of receipt.

14. Intellectual property

Intellectual property in the data that make up any CentRIC⁺ dataset is vested in the University of Southampton and managed by CentRIC⁺. As such, any requests to access the data must be made through CentRIC⁺. Any data generated through an approved project must be made available to CentRIC⁺ where it will form part of the dataset to enable it to be used by the research community.

Any intellectual property generated using CentRIC⁺ datasets (“Foreground IP”) will belong to the University of Southampton.

15. End of study

The end of the study is defined as when a paper has been accepted for publication or, at the end of the protected period of approved use, at the discretion of the CentRIC⁺ Director or project Chief Investigator. The dataset, including any derived variables, should then be returned to CentRIC⁺ and all local copies deleted unless permission is given in writing for data to be retained. An [End of Study Checklist](#) should be completed and returned to CentRIC⁺ (CentRIC@soton.ac.uk).