



CONCORD
Global surveillance
of cancer survival



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Dear colleagues

Brexit and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

We have some good news for European cancer registries involved in CONCORD and VENUSCANCER. The uncertainty about transfers of personal data from the European Union to the UK has been resolved. Those data transfers will continue to be legal.

When Brexit occurred on 31 December 2020, the GDPR was retained in UK domestic law, with a few modifications, as the UK-GDPR. Differences from the EU-GDPR are largely technical, for example citing UK institutions instead of EU institutions. The key principles, rights and obligations of GDPR remain exactly the same.

On [28 June 2021](#), after a unanimous vote by all 27 EU Member States, the European Commission adopted an "[adequacy decision](#)" under GDPR Article 45, in respect of the data protection regime in the UK. This decision resolves the uncertainty that arose after Brexit about the legality of transferring sensitive personal data to the UK from the European Economic Area (the 27 EU Member States plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) for health research. Under this adequacy decision, the legal basis for transfers of sensitive personal data to the UK from the EEA is now the same as it was under GDPR before the UK left the European Union.

The adequacy decision will be valid for four years in the first instance. It could be extended if the EU Commission continues to see the UK data protection regime as adequate. However, the Commission retains the right to monitor the UK data protection regime, and it could modify or revoke its decision if any changes in the UK regime are considered likely to weaken data protection for EU citizens.

We see this as positive news for international collaboration in health research. We look forward to continuing our long-standing collaboration with you in the global surveillance of cancer survival.

Yours sincerely

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Professor of Global Public Health

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