NHS
National Patient Safety Agency

National Research Ethics Service

NOTICE OF SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

For use in the case of all research other than clinical trials of investigational medicinal products (CTIMPs). For substantial amendments to CTIMPs, please use the EU-approved notice of amendment form (Annex 2 to ENTR/CT1) at http://eudract.emea.eu.int/document.html#guidance.

To be completed in typescript by the Chief Investigator in language comprehensible to a lay person and submitted to the Research Ethics Committee that gave a favourable opinion of the research ("the main REC"). In the case of multi-site studies, there is no need to send copies to other RECs unless specifically required by the main REC.

Further guidance is available at http://www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk/applicants/review/after/amendments.htm.

Details of Chief Investigator:	
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Full title of study:	Prospective Observational Study of the long term hazards of anti-TNF therapy in rheumatoid arthritis
Name of main REC:	North West 5 REC – Haydock Park
REC reference number:	MREC 00/8/53
Date study commenced:	October 2001
Protocol reference *(if applicable)*, current version and date:	Protocol dated 06/10/2003
Amendment number and date:	Today's date: 12 July 2010

Type of amendment (indicate all that apply in bold)

(a) Amendment to information previously given on the NRES Application Form

Yes *No*

If yes, please refer to relevant sections of the REC application in the "summary of changes" below.

(b) Amendment to the protocol

Yes ***No***

If yes, please submit either the revised protocol with a new version number and date, highlighting changes in bold, or a document listing the changes and giving both the previous and revised text.

(c) Amendment to the information sheet(s) and consent form(s) for participants, or to any other supporting documentation for the study

Yes *No*

If yes, please submit all revised documents with new version numbers and dates, highlighting new text in bold.

Is this a modified version of an amendment previously notified to the REC and given an unfavourable opinion?

Yes ***No***

Summary of changes

Briefly summarise the main changes proposed in this amendment using language comprehensible to a lay person. Explain the purpose of the changes and their significance for the study. In the case of a modified amendment, highlight the modifications that have been made.

If the amendment significantly alters the research design or methodology, or could otherwise affect the scientific value of the study, supporting scientific information should be given (or enclosed separately). Indicate whether or not additional scientific critique has been obtained.

This amendment covers two separate areas (i) proposed electronic data collection in the BSRBR, and (ii) change to patient information sheet and consent form to reflect name changes in governmental departments.

Electronic Data Collection

The BSR Biologics Register currently collects data from clinicians across the UK using paper-based questionnaires that are entered onto a Microsoft Access 2003 database by a team of Project Assistants at the Biologic Studies Group offices. A move towards electronic data collection is vital for the ongoing success of the

The User ID and password that the clinician chooses is encrypted in the database using default Microsoft 128bit encryption. This means that members of the BSRBR study team will not be able to view the passwords. If the user forgets the password, they will be asked the security question provided in the registration process, and their password will be emailed to them.

As detailed above, each new user will be verified by the BSRBR before any encrypted information is transferred, ensuring that only approved individuals are able to use the system. The general public can access the BSRBR web page, but will have no access to the data-entry area of the website. Each recruiting centre that enters data onto the database will be able to view the information that they have entered themselves, but not any data that has been input by any other centre. The BSRBR Team will be able to view all the information that has been entered by any centre.

System security
The database will be held on a secure server and will follow standard University of Manchester security policies. The data will be stored within an access-restricted data share on the University's network storage infrastructure, which is the recommended (by University IT Services) location for storing sensitive or critical University data.

The storage infrastructure is hosted across two data centres (approx 2km apart) for resilience and disaster recovery purposes. Physical access to the data centres is strictly limited to data centre staff and a limited number of authorised IT Services staff. The data centres are protected by physical and electronic access security systems, swipe card access in and out of the data centres and CCTV coverage. The data centres are locked down out of hours and access is only with the prior agreement of the data centre manager. The campus network perimeter arrangements ensure that transmitted data is not visible from off campus. Network segmentation restricts the visibility of transmitted data on campus. The University has a Network Policy of securing all network cabinet access and restricting access to authorised IT staff.

Change to Consent Forms and Participant Information Sheets

Minor wording changes have been made to the consent form and participant information sheet to incorporate the change in structure of the national NHS registers. The National Health Service Central Register (NHS CR), which was previously part of the General Register Office (GRO) are now separate organisations. Officially the NHS central register was transferred to the NHS-Information Centre in 2008:

(http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/who-we-are/our-services/medical-research/index.html).

Please refer to point three on the consent form and information sheet which have therefore been revised to reflect this governmental department change of name. Two further changes have been made (i) the University of Manchester is now the sponsor of the study and, (ii) the arc has changed it's name to Arthritis Research UK.