

# GUIDELINES FOR THE RISK GROUPS OF HUMAN CLINICAL SAMPLES

## PURPOSE

These guidelines support the Pre-Acquisition Tool (PAT) by outlining how to choose the Risk Group of a human clinical sample and how to check the requirements for a microorganism of that Risk Group.

## SOURCE MATERIAL

Curtin's Guidelines for the safe storage, handling and use of clinical samples.

<https://www.curtin.edu.au/healthandsafety/wp-content/uploads/GuidelinesClinical-SamplesV52024.pdf>

### 1 RISK GROUP 1

Risk Group 1 human clinical samples include:

- Pre-screened ex-Red Cross Blood Service products.
- Autoclaved, pasteurised, irradiated or 'fixed' clinical samples.
- Tissue from healthy, uninfected, animal-facility-sourced animals that is kept refrigerated or dried.

### 2 RISK GROUP 2

Risk Group 2 human clinical samples include:

- Clinical samples from donors whose disease status is unknown
- Clinical samples from donors suspected/known to be infected with a RG2 pathogen

If you want to acquire a RG 2 human clinical sample, you must also complete a PAT for a RG 2 Microorganism.

- You must contain your sample in a PC2 lab
- You must get vaccinated to protect against exposure to blood and body fluids (<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccination-for-special-risk-groups/vaccination-for-people-at-occupational-risk> )
- If the donor is known to be infected with a microorganism then answer the remaining questions in the PAT for a Risk Group 2 Microorganism about this infecting microorganism
- If the donor is not known to be infected with a microorganism then answer the remaining questions as though the microorganism is not pathogenic to humans

### 3 RISK GROUP 3

Risk Group 3 human clinical samples include:

- Clinical samples from donors suspected/known to be infected with a RG3 pathogen

If you want to acquire a RG 3 human clinical sample, you must also complete a PAT for a RG 3 Microorganism.

- You must contain your sample in a PC3 lab
- You must get vaccinated to protect against exposure to blood and body fluids (<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccination-for-special-risk-groups/vaccination-for-people-at-occupational-risk> )
- If the donor is known to be infected with a microorganism then answer the remaining questions in the PAT for a Risk Group 3 Microorganism about this infecting microorganism
- If the donor is not known to be infected with a microorganism then answer the remaining questions as though the microorganism is not pathogenic to humans.