

## General Information

The term clinical data refers to any and all information that is recorded by a clinician about a subject in a clinical setting. It includes typed and handwritten annotations, calculations, progress notes, demographic data, diagrams, charts and incidental jottings. All such data is private, confidential and remains the personal property of the clinician.

Clinical data reflects the clinician's own personal methodology relative to data collection. Clinical data does not usually nor does it have to pay attention to the same protocols that publicly available data must adhere to. When final opinions and findings are required the clinician will formulate an appropriate document that will reflect acceptable protocols. Clinical data may or may not accurately reflect the clinician's final comments.

Clinical data is for the personal and private use of the clinician only. It will generally therefore hold meaning only for the clinician who collected it and will often only be relevant when the direct circumstances wherein the data was collected are known and understood.

For these reasons clinical data can be wrongly analysed and misinterpreted when removed from the clinical context in which it was collected and when analysed and interpreted by individuals other than the clinician.

For these reasons clinical data is not generally released. However it is acknowledged that under certain circumstances it may be appropriate to release clinical data. The decision whether or not clinical data will be released rests with the clinician.

This policy has been formulated in good faith. It is designed to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the child and the potential dangerous misuse of clinical data.