# CM-Path Cellular Pathology procedures with regards to release of research tissue samples

Cellular Pathology Departments act as a custodians of patient tissue samples held within diagnostic archives for NHS Trusts. Access, storage and archiving, must therefore be compliant with current good practice and legislative requirements.

For research purposes, tissue/blocks must not be released without evidence of ethical approval (usually NRES) and Trust approval (usually Trust R&D depts).

Prior to the release of any human tissue, Cellular Pathology Departments should:

* Request that researchers comply with its departmental policies and procedures to track and manage human tissue used for research purposes.
* Request copies of Trust approval and REC approval.
* Ensure that internal records relating to the storage, release, use, or disposal of human tissue are adequately maintained.
* Maintain a record of all researchers supplied with patient tissue samples
* If tissue is to be provided to an external organisation for research the following process are required:
  + If the outside organisation is another NHS Trust, a copy of the R&D approval letter from that Trust must be requested prior to release of tissue.
  + A copy of the REC approval letter for that organization must be requested, if relevant to the project
  + Establishment of a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) between the Trust and the organization is advisable
  + Establishment of a service agreement between Cellular Pathology and the organisation may be appropriate, including cost recovery if agreed
  + A record of all organisations outside of this Trust, supplied with patient tissue samples from this Trust should be kept.