



V1. Adopted July 2017.

ICE-HBV Confidentiality Policy

Objective:

To permit members of the ICE-HBV working groups share data freely without compromising their publications or intellectual property positions.

Policies:

Data: Data generated by the ICE-HBV working groups as part of their collaborative ICE-HBV efforts are the product of the working group as a whole, not the individual investigators. Therefore, their use in publications, presentations, and patent applications needs to equitably address the entire group's contribution.

Confidentiality: Data shared between members of the working group and the ICE-HBV governing board will be confidential and will not be distributed beyond the labs of the individual working group or governing board members without approval from the full working group. Confidential data may be shared with the stakeholders consulting group members only after receiving approval from the responsible working group and the Governing Board, and an explicit agreement from the stakeholders to maintain the data in confidence.

Publications: All publications and public presentations of confidential data produced as part of the collaborative working group projects must be approved by the working group and Governing Board in advance.

Intellectual property: Intellectual property stemming from ICE-HBV collaborative research remains with the individual working group members and is governed by the laws of the countries in which the investigators reside, unless superseded by previous intellectual property claims in the form of patent application. Funding agencies may retain an interest in the intellectual property generated through ICE-HBV collaborative research projects. This interest will be governed by the terms of the grants and contracts which provided funds to conduct the research.



Administrative Procedures:

- Administration of these policies is the responsibility of the working group chairpersons and the Governing Board.
- The working group chairpersons and Governing Board will establish mechanisms to review and approve public release of confidential data generated by the working group. These policies are to be tailored to the needs of the individual working groups and need not be the same for all working groups.
- All data shared between members of the working group that is part of the ICE-HBV collaboration must be labeled as “Confidential” within data files and in any physical or electronic communication containing the data. Failure to do so may endanger patentability of intellectual property.
- Authorship of publications and presentations including confidential ICE-HBV data will comprise the working group members who contribute to the body of work to be presented, following scientific norms. The working group chairpersons and the Governing Board will resolve any conflicts that may arise relative to authorship.
- All working group members will acknowledge in writing that they have received a copy of these policies and agree to abide by them.