Defense Health Agency
Research and Development
Medical Research and Development Command
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

DIRECTIVE

January 14, 2026

DHA R&D CDMRP

SUBJECT: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs-Directive on Sharing Data and Research Resources

References: See Enclosure 1.

1. PURPOSE. This Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs-Directive (CDMRP-D), based on the authority of References (a) and (b), and in accordance with the guidance of References (c) through (g), establishes the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) procedures related to data and research resources sharing.

2. APPLICABILITY. This CDMRP-D applies to all organizations applying to CDMRP funding opportunity announcements.

3. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION. Applications to CDMRP funding opportunities must include a Research Sharing Plan describing what, when, and how researchers will make CDMRP-supported research data and research resources available to the research community, industry, U.S. Government, consumers and advocates, and the general public. The Research Sharing Plan may also include the rationale for any data or resources protected from sharing. Consistent with Reference (f), sharing resources enhances the impact of federal funds by reducing costs associated with research duplication, increasing transparency of publicly funded research data and resources, informing the design and execution of future research, and creating analysis opportunities to address research and health care needs.

4. CANCELED DOCUMENTS. This CDMRP-D replaces the "Policy on Data & Resource Sharing," dated February 13, 2012, posted on the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 2.

6. PROCEDURES. See Enclosure 3.

7. PROPONENT AND WAIVERS. The proponent of this CDMRP-D is the Director, CDMRP. Review panels and CDMRP staff will evaluate application Research Sharing Plans to assess compliance with this directive.

8. RELEASABILITY. Cleared for public release. This CDMRP-D is available on the internet from the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm.

9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This CDMRP-D:

a. Effective upon signature.

b. Should receive a review by the fifth anniversary of the original publication date or upon receipt of updated or canceled higher-level guidance.

c. Will expire 10 years from the date of signature without reissue or cancelation before this date, in accordance with Reference (a).

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MARK G. HARTELL
COL, U.S. Army
Director, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Enclosures
1. References
2. Responsibilities
3. Procedures

Appendix:
1. Potential Methods for Sharing Data and Research Resources

Glossary

ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

(a) DoD Directive 5136.01, "Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA))," September 30, 2013, as amended
(b) DoD Directive 5136.13, "Defense Health Agency (DHA)," September 30, 2013, as amended
(c) DHA-Procedural Instruction 5025.01, "Publication System," April 1, 2022
(d) Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, "U.S. Department of Defense Gold Standard Science Implementation Plan: Report to the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President of the United States," August 22, 2025
(e) Assistant to the President for Science and Technology Memorandum, "Agency Guidance for Implementing Gold Standard Science in the Conduct & Management of Scientific Activities," June 23, 2025
(f) DoD Instruction 3200.12, "DoD Scientific and Technical Information Program (STIP)," August 22, 2013, as amended
(g) DoD Instruction 3200.20, "Scientific and Engineering Integrity," July 26, 2012, as amended
(h) CDMRP Website, "Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Directive on Research Duplication," https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/researchDup
(i) Federal Register, Volume 64, Pages 72090-72096, December 23, 1999
(j) National Institutes of Health (NIH) Website, "Requirements for NIH Controlled-Access Data Repositories and Users," https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/sharing-policies/accessing-data/requirements
(k) NIH Website, "Selecting a Data Repository," https://sharing.nih.gov/data-management-and-sharing-policy/sharing-scientific-data/selecting-a-data-repository

ENCLOSURE 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. DIRECTOR, CDMRP. The Director, CDMRP will ensure compliance and implementation of this CDMRP-D.

2. APPLICANT ORGANIZATIONS. As described in the CDMRP's funding opportunity announcement submission requirements, applicants must submit a Research Sharing Plan.

3. PEER REVIEWERS. In accordance with the peer review criteria included within a funding opportunity announcement document(s), peer reviewers will evaluate the Research Sharing Plan as part of their assessment of the technical merit of the application or proposal.

4. PROGRAMMATIC REVIEWERS. Using programmatic review criteria stated in the funding opportunity announcement document(s), programmatic reviewers will consider the technical merit of an application or proposal when making funding recommendations. This consideration includes the peer reviewers' evaluation of the Research Sharing Plan.

5. CDMRP STAFF. The CDMRP staff will provide organizational representatives with relevant resources, such as the CDMRP-D and funding opportunity announcement document(s) containing application submission guidance. As appropriate, the CDMRP staff will review Research Sharing Plan progress in Technical Progress Reports and provide feedback to award recipients.

ENCLOSURE 3

PROCEDURES

1. OVERVIEW. In accordance with References (d) through (g), CDMRP funding application or proposal submissions must include a Research Sharing Plan according to the requirements outlined in the funding opportunity announcement document(s). This instruction applies to data and research resources generated from CDMRP-supported biomedical research. Applicable research includes basic, applied, translational, and clinical studies, including clinical trials. The CDMRP requires funded applicants to report on the plan's progress within the Technical Progress Reports.

2. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSION AND AWARD GUIDANCE

a. PLAN DESCRIPTION. The Research Sharing Plan describes what, when, and how applicants will make CDMRP-supported research data and resources accessible to the research community, industry, U.S. Government, consumers and advocates, and the general public within the boundaries of law, regulation, other directive, and executive requirements. The plan should identify and provide the rationale for any data or resources protected from sharing, e.g., for intellectual property, feasibility, cost, or other considerations. The plan should also protect participant privacy, confidential and proprietary data, and performer or third-party intellectual property. The funding opportunity announcement document(s) may provide additional guidance.

b. BUDGET. When preparing the research budget, applicants may budget for costs associated with the Research Sharing Plan during the proposed period of performance. The funding opportunity announcement document(s) may provide additional guidance.

c. STATEMENT OF WORK. As appropriate, applicants must include within their proposed Statement of Work a milestone schedule for when they will make CDMRP-funded research data or resource(s) accessible. The funding opportunity announcement document(s) may provide additional guidance.

d. TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORTS. Within the Technical Progress Reports, the CDMRP encourages award recipients to describe progress towards the Research Sharing Plan's milestone schedule.

3. THE CDMRP AS A GOVERNMENT SPONSOR OR SIGNATORY. Unless otherwise stated in the specific funding opportunity announcement document(s), the CDMRP will not serve as the government sponsor or signatory on research data or resource repository access or submission requests. Once finalized, the award agreement may serve as confirmation of government funding.

APPENDIX

POTENTIAL METHODS FOR SHARING DATA AND RESEARCH RESOURCES

1. DIRECT SHARING BY THE ORGANIZATION. To facilitate responsible research data and resource use, organizations should consider developing a data- or resource-sharing agreement outlining criteria for access, conditions for research use, privacy and confidentiality standards, and prohibitions against manipulating data to identify research participants.

2. DATA ARCHIVES AND REPOSITORIES. Organizations anticipating a large number of requests, requiring a robust process for vetting requests, or providing technical assistance to users may consider utilizing an archive or repository. See Reference (j) for best practices for data archive and repository security. See Reference (k) for guidance on selecting a data repository.

3. MIXED MODE SHARING. Organizations may develop a "mixed mode" approach for data sharing, which allows for the creation of multiple dataset versions and differentiated access. For example, organizations may make available a redacted or de-identified data set for general use while implementing stricter controls through a data enclave, if required, for access to sensitive data.

4. SHARING OTHER RESEARCH RESOURCES. To facilitate the availability of software, artificial intelligence algorithms, computer programming scripts, technology resources, unique or novel biological materials or resources developed with CDMRP funds, organizations may distribute these materials through their organization or submit them, if appropriate, to other repositories or distributors. When distributing unique resources, organizations should include pertinent information on the nature, quality, or characterization of the materials. In addition, organizations should submit unique biological information, such as genomic sequences or crystallographic coordinates, to the appropriate data banks for broader dissemination.

GLOSSARY

PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
DHA	Defense Health Agency
NIH	National Institutes of Health
R&D	research and development

PART II. DEFINITIONS

data. Factual information systematically collected, observed, or created as part of the scientific research process. Data may include "positive or "negative" findings, and there is no requirement to publish the information in scientific journals. Data should enable any individual skilled in the discipline to verify or replicate any major claims or conclusions from the research study. Data does not include preliminary analysis, library notebooks, summary statistics or tables, peer review reports, communications with colleagues, or physical objects (adapted from Reference (f)).

research resources. The full range of tools used by scientists and technicians for research, such as software, artificial intelligence algorithms, computer programming scripts, cell lines, antibodies, reagents, research models, growth factors, combinatorial chemistry, genomic libraries, genetic clones and cloning tools, methods, laboratory equipment and machines. These are tools for discovery, readily usable or distributable, and not U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved products or integral components of a product (adapted from Reference (i)).

Research Sharing Plan. A document describing what, when, and how applicants will make CDMRP-supported research data and resources accessible to the research community, industry, U.S. Government, consumers and advocates, and the general public within the boundaries of law, regulation, other directive, and executive requirements. The plan should identify and provide the rationale for any data or resources protected from sharing, e.g., for intellectual property, feasibility, cost, or other considerations. The funding opportunity announcement document(s) may provide additional guidance.