



**This guide summarises the data management and sharing requirements for research funded by the Medical Research Council(MRC). Please visit their website for further details.**

**Resource types:** Qualitative data, quantitative data, software code, scripts and other research outputs.

**Data Plan:** A 'Data Management Plan' must be provided in the research bid. A DMP template is available on the MRC website.

**Data-related funds:** Data-related fees may be requested as part of Full Economic Costs, on condition that they are clearly explained in the DMP & Case for Support

**Retention:** Data should be kept for a minimum of 10 years following the end of the funding period. MRC-funded population & patient studies should retain data for 20 years minimum.

**Data standards:** Open, well-documented standards and formats should be used. See <https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/format/> for examples.

**Documentation:** Project and data-level documentation should be created. See <https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/document>.

**Data hosting:** Data should be made available through an appropriate digital repository, such as LSHTM Data Compass. Consult <http://www.re3data.org/> for examples of relevant repositories.

**Sharing timescales:** A release embargo is permitted to allow publication of research findings – recommend a maximum of 12 months from the end of grant.

**Rights:** IPR will typically lie with the institution(s) performing the research. Use of open licences such as Open Data Commons and Creative Commons are encouraged. Third party IPR should be addressed prior to data release.

**Monitoring:** Review Data Management Plan during project and update accordingly.

## References:

- MRC Data Management and Sharing  
<https://www.mrc.ac.uk/research/policies-and-guidance-for-researchers/data-sharing/>
- Writing a MRC / NC3R Data Management Plan – A guide for LSHTM researchers  
<http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/3716763/>
- Digital Curation Centre: Example Data Management Plans  
<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/data-management-plans/guidance-examples>