

## Eligibility criteria for United Kingdom services and research in the Orphanet directory for rare disease and orphan drugs

### Introduction:

Orphanet works with the rare disease community in order to provide its users with quality, up-to-date information on rare diseases and to improve its services. The Orphanet database publishes data on services and research for rare diseases for more than 40 countries worldwide.

### United Kingdom:

- Public Health England (PHE) hosts the national Orphanet team;
- Orphanet-UK is responsible for the collection, registration, pre-release quality control and update of UK information on services and research in the database. A request for registration of data can be filled [here](#).

Please find below the definitions, selection criteria and the responsible experts or institutions that perform the post-release quality control for the different types of data. Only after post-release quality control is the data considered validated.

### Types of data on services and research registered with Orphanet:

1. Expert centres and centres of expertise (if applicable)
2. Medical laboratories and diagnostic tests
3. Patient organisations
4. Clinical trials
5. Patient registries/databases
6. Mutation registries/Biobanks
7. Research projects

#### **1. Expert Centres and centres of expertise**

An expert centre on rare diseases is intended for:

##### Medical management:

A specialised or multidisciplinary centre for a rare disease (or a group of rare diseases) organised for the medical management of patients or recognised as an expert centre for consultation.

Expert centres mentioned in Orphanet should deliver a service of indisputably higher quality than a standard hospital service in the relevant speciality.

This data is intended to improve the referrals of patients towards expert centres, to ease the process of second opinion between professionals, and to establish reference networks.

Genetic counselling: a clinic delivering genetic advice either for all genetic diseases or for a genetic disease/group of diseases.

##### An expert centre on rare diseases is not:

- A conventional specialised medical department without specific focus on rare diseases
- A self-declared centre that does not fulfil the quality standard criteria.

##### A network of expert centres is:

- A network of expert centres specialised in a disease (or group of diseases) with an official designation by health authorities in a country or a specific funding from a well-established body.
- It can be national, European or International.

##### A network of expert centres is not:

- A self-declared network (same hospital or same disease without any funding)
- Clinical centres participating in the same clinical trials
- Clinical centres with expert knowledge in the same field but without official recognition.

##### Criteria for data selection:

- Selected centres should comply with some or all the criteria adapted from [EUCERD](#) recommendations
- For expert centres that are not officially-designated, professionals should fill in the [Orphanet Quality Criteria questionnaire](#), available in the [Orphanet online registration service](#). Once completed, this questionnaire will be assessed by the national validators on the basis of the criteria listed.

*These definitions and criteria have been agreed upon by the Orphanet consortium partners. This document will be updated as necessary. Please send any comments or questions to: [Orphanet-UK@phe.gov.uk](mailto:Orphanet-UK@phe.gov.uk) E.Sichone 2017*

## 2. Medical laboratories and Diagnostic tests

A diagnostic test on rare diseases is a biological analysis (molecular genetics, biochemistry, anatomical pathology, etc.) performed in a clinical setting by the laboratory declaring the activity.

This analysis:

- diagnoses or confirms the diagnosis of a rare disease
- tests the responses to therapies
- assesses the likelihood of developing a specific condition based on a genetic risk.

A diagnostic test on rare diseases is not a routine analysis performed in most laboratories.

Criteria for data selection:

*Molecular genetics:* All constitutional genetic testing analyses are collected, even for non-rare diseases and pharmacogenetics.

*Constitutional cytogenetics:* Conventional cytogenetic analyses (karyotypes, G-banding, etc.) are not registered in Orphanet. Molecular cytogenetic analyses like FISH as well as molecular genetics such as MLPA or array-CGH are registered in Orphanet only if they are designed for specific microdeletion/microduplication syndromes. Tests for chromosome number anomalies and ring chromosomes done by FISH (e.g. Trisomy 11) are not registered in Orphanet, as their detection does not require a specific expertise in molecular cytogenetics.

*Microbiology (bacteriology/virology/mycology):* If the country has centres/laboratories of reference for infectious diseases, only their tests should be listed for a given disease.

*Biochemical genetics:* Only tests requiring special metabolic investigation should be considered: enzyme assays, key metabolites analyses, or functional assays when required.

*-Other types of tests (anatomical-pathology, parasitology, Immunology, haematology, imaging):* Assessment is submitted to expert advice to judge if a specific level of expertise is required.

Laboratory quality assurance - Accreditation and EQA should be entered only if they correspond to tests or techniques performed by the laboratories and registered in Orphanet. Information for EQA is collected at national level, except for CF Network, CEQA, UKNEQAS cytogenetic and EMQN. The participation lists from these providers are sent directly to the coordinating team with the consent of the concerned laboratories and submitted to the national partners for data entry. Orphanet registers only EQA participations from the last 5 years.

## 3. Patient Organisations

A patient organisation on rare diseases is:

An active patient organisation or foundation that provides support for a rare disease or a group of rare diseases.

- Regional patient organisations are also included in the database if there is no national equivalent.
- Patient organisations on non-rare diseases also dealing with rare forms of common diseases, or with disabilities, are included if there is no specific organisation.

A patient organisation on rare diseases is not:

- A fund-raising trust or foundation that helps one or several patients with no real advice or help given to others
- A learned society
- A research-funding trust/foundation
- A blog and/or forum only.

Criteria for data selection

- Patient organisations for rare diseases registered with Orphanet are those that have a legal status, according to the country's laws.
- The organisation has to be responsive: can be contacted by telephone, e-mail, etc.
- The organisation should have a designated head and/or a contact person.
- For an organisation with official contact points in several countries, all the official contact points have to be registered, as well as its legal establishment.

#### 4. Clinical Trials

##### A clinical trial on rare diseases is:

An interventional study aiming to evaluate a drug (or a combination of drugs or a biological product, etc.) in the treatment (or prevention) of a rare disease or a group of rare diseases. A clinical trial is defined nationally and it must be registered in each country involved according to the regulations.

A clinical trial on rare diseases is not: a non-therapeutic clinical study / any pre-clinical study.

##### Criteria for data selection

- Only ongoing or “to-be-ongoing” clinical trials that concern a rare disease/group of rare diseases are collected, i.e. trials recruiting patients suffering from a rare disease.
- Phase I CTs are collected but not published online unless the sponsor or the investigator expressly requires the trial to be visible on the Orphanet website.
- Clinical trials can only be registered if a protocol or brief description of the trial’s objectives is available.
- It is mandatory to add a URL for the clinical trial protocol.

#### 5. Patient registries/databases

##### A patient registry (or disease registry) is:

A systematic collection of clinical data for clinical research explicitly focused on a particular rare disease or group of diseases, as well as for rare forms of common diseases, governed by an identified body.

##### A patient registry on rare diseases is not:

- A study performed by recruitment of patient of a registry, i.e. clinical trial or clinical study;
- Patient registries for common diseases;
- Registered as separate registries for contact points of a single patient registry;
- Non-systematically performed clinical data collections.

##### Criteria for data selection

- Patient registries on a rare disease (or group of rare disease) should be governed by an identified body.
- Only one manager of the registry and/or only one contact person for the registry will be included in the database.
- Cancer registries are listed only if they focus on rare form(s) of cancer.
- Dataset to be collected: Label of the registry, one manager of the registry and/or one contact person, funding body, coverage, recruitment status, website.

#### 6. Mutation registries and Biobanks

##### A mutation registry on rare diseases is:

A systematic data collection on gene mutations described as responsible for a rare disease (or group of rare diseases) with an online interface, governed by an identified body.

Mutation registries are tools for medical laboratories as well as research laboratories.

##### A mutation registry on rare diseases is not:

- A collection of gene mutations without associated phenotype
- An empty database associated with a project of data collection on gene mutations.

##### Criteria for data selection:

- Dataset for collection: Rare disease(s) concerned, Gene & gene symbol, website, contact person.

##### A biobank on rare diseases is:

Any kind of systematic, open-for-collaboration register of biological specimen for clinical research with a clear orientation toward the field of rare diseases.

##### A biobank on rare diseases is not:

A collection of biological material with no specificity but that might be useful in the field of rare diseases.

Criteria for data selection:

-In Orphanet, biobanks and collections of biological samples (DNA, cells, tissues, serum/plasma) produced by the scientific community conducting research on rare diseases, and who are willing to share their resources with the scientific community are listed. This excludes private collections, except if they are open for collaboration (samples available to third parties).

-Dataset to be collected: name of the Biobank and Manager, diseases concerned (medical domain or a group of disease or one disease), type of sample (DNA, cells, blood, etc.), website.

## **7. Research Projects**

A research project on rare diseases is:

An ongoing and unpublished research project explicitly focusing on a rare disease or a group of rare diseases AND funded by a funding body (public or private, for or not-for-profit) with a scientific committee (after competitive evaluation) or the regular funding of a research institution (MRC, DKFZ, INSERM, etc.).

A research project on rare diseases is not:

- A study on general aspects of a common disease which has rare forms (Parkinson disease, Alzheimer disease, or breast cancer, etc.)

- A study on non-rare diseases

- A study that could one day be applicable in the field of rare diseases but without explicit intention

- A study that has already been published with the label of the study being the title of the article in PubMed.

Criteria for data selection:

- Dataset to be collected: Label of the project/network with acronym if any, name of investigator/coordinator, funding body, website, purpose of the research (in order to deduce the corresponding category).