

Guardian Research Network

Website Terms & Privacy Notice

Purpose and Scope

This Notice describes how Guardian Research Network (GRN) manages information collected through its public website and through authorized research activities that may utilize connected health technologies.

Website Information Collection

GRN's website is primarily informational. GRN does not use advertising cookies, behavioral tracking technologies, marketing pixels, or similar technologies for advertising or profiling purposes. Information is collected only when voluntarily submitted through website contact forms, email communications, employment inquiries, or other direct interactions.

Cookies and Technical Operation

The website may utilize essential technical cookies required for website functionality, security, and session management. These cookies are not used for advertising, profiling, or marketing purposes.

Research Studies and Connected Health Technologies

Certain approved research studies may utilize connected health technologies, including Fitbit devices, Google Health services, wearable technologies, mobile applications, and other participant-authorized health information sources. Collection of such information occurs only after a participant has voluntarily enrolled in a study and provided the required informed consent and authorizations.

Participant Authorization and Informed Consent

Participation in research studies conducted or supported by GRN is voluntary. Prior to the collection of data from Fitbit, Google Health services, wearable devices, mobile health applications, or other connected health technologies, participants are provided with an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved Informed Consent Form (ICF) describing the study, information to be collected, intended uses of the information, potential risks and benefits, and participant rights. The informed consent process serves as the primary authorization for the collection, use, retention, disclosure, and analysis of study-related information, including participant-authorized data obtained from connected health technologies.

Information Collected

Depending on the approved study protocol and permissions authorized by the participant through the informed consent process, GRN may receive activity metrics, exercise information, heart rate information, sleep information, participant-generated health information, device-generated health measurements, and other health-related information necessary to support approved research objectives. GRN limits collection to information reasonably necessary to conduct approved research activities and fulfill study objectives.

How Information Is Used

Connected-health information is used solely for approved research activities, study operations, clinical research, observational research, scientific analysis, and study-related reporting. GRN does not use such information for advertising, consumer marketing, profiling, or the sale of personal information.

Sharing of Information

Access to research information is restricted to authorized personnel and approved research partners with a legitimate research, operational, or compliance-related need to access the information. Access is granted according to the principles of least privilege, need-to-know, and role-based authorization. Where appropriate, information may be de-identified, aggregated, or otherwise transformed prior to disclosure to sponsors, researchers, statisticians, or other approved collaborators. GRN does not sell participant information.

Data Protection and Security

GRN maintains administrative, technical, and physical safeguards designed to protect research information from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, alteration, or destruction. Information collected through research studies, including participant-authorized data obtained from connected health technologies, is protected using industry-standard encryption and other appropriate security measures while transmitted, processed, and stored. Access to research information is limited to authorized individuals whose job responsibilities require such access. GRN applies least-privilege and role-based access principles to reduce unnecessary access to sensitive information. GRN periodically reviews its security and privacy controls to help ensure the ongoing protection of research information and compliance with applicable contractual, regulatory, and organizational requirements.

Data Retention

Research information is retained in accordance with informed consent documents, approved study protocols, contractual obligations, sponsor requirements, applicable laws, regulatory requirements, and scientific integrity requirements.

During the retention period, research information remains subject to GRN security and privacy safeguards, including encryption, access controls, and other protections appropriate to the sensitivity of the information.

Retention of research information helps preserve the integrity, validity, reproducibility, and auditability of research activities. Accordingly, information previously collected and incorporated into study records, analyses, de-identified datasets, or research results may continue to be retained and used as necessary to support approved research objectives, scientific integrity requirements, regulatory obligations, and study documentation requirements.

Revocation and Withdrawal

Participants may discontinue future collection of connected-health information by revoking permissions through the applicable authorization process or by withdrawing from further participation in a study, subject to the terms described in the applicable informed consent form. Revocation prevents future collection of information.

Information collected prior to revocation or withdrawal may continue to be retained and used as described in the informed consent form, approved study protocol, sponsor requirements, contractual obligations, and applicable legal requirements. As explained during the informed consent process, research records, study datasets, analyses, and de-identified information derived from previously collected data may continue to be retained and used to preserve the integrity, validity, and completeness of approved research activities.

Contact Information

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Website Terms

All website content is the property of GRN or its licensors. The website is provided for informational purposes. GRN is not responsible for third-party websites linked from the site. Use of the website is at the user's own risk. Delaware law governs this Notice.

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