



Welcome to our Life Sciences newsletter!

A quick monthly read with useful information, articles, and views from our team of experienced DPOs on the latest data protection news specific to the Life Sciences.

## LIFE SCIENCES IN THE NEWS

### EMA proposes faster clinical trial approvals during public health emergencies

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has published draft guidance aimed at accelerating the approval of clinical trials during public health emergencies (PHEs).

Issued under the Accelerating Clinical Trials in the EU (ACT EU) initiative, the guidance sets out proposed regulatory mechanisms to speed up both the authorisation of new trials and the approval of modifications to ongoing studies.

It also provides practical direction on adapting trial conduct during PHEs, including when participants may be transferred between investigational sites and when alternative procedures may be required due to operational constraints.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the draft guidance until 30 April 2026.

[Read the draft guidance](#)

## INFORMATION, BLOGS & ARTICLES

### ANONYMISATION PART 1: CHALLENGES & CONSIDERATIONS FOR LIFE SCIENCES

[READ THE BLOG](#)

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## A DPO'S PERSPECTIVE

**Dana Sayer, DPO at The DPO Centre**, shares practical insights on managing the risks of pseudonymised and anonymised data.

*‘Misclassifying pseudonymised data as anonymised can lead to significant regulatory risk and enforcement action. Recent court rulings have focused not just on how data is processed, but whether individuals could be identified using additional or publicly available information, such as links to their healthcare professional.*

*‘While pseudonymised data remains personal data subject to GDPR requirements, anonymised data contains no direct identifiers and no realistic possibility of reidentification, placing it outside the scope of the GDPR.*

*‘For organisations working with rich datasets, this raises important practical considerations. You should:*

- 1. Review anonymised datasets to ensure reidentification of individuals is not possible*
- 2. Evaluate reidentification risks, including the potential to combine datasets with publicly available information*
- 3. Document parameters and decisions for dataset anonymisation on a case-by-case basis*
- 4. Assess data sharing agreements, ensuring recipients have no reasonable means of reidentifying individuals’*

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**For any data protection queries you may have, or for further information about how The DPO Centre can support your organisation, please [contact us](#).**

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