



A proposal for revision of the Declaration of Helsinki to promote data-driven science and strengthening human subject protection

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<https://ifapp.org/working-groups/ethics-and-professionalism>

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Background:

- The Declaration of Helsinki (DoH) was revised in 2013 and the Declaration of Taipei (DoT) was adopted in 2016 by the World Medical Association (WMA).
- DoH is for research involving human subjects including individual identifiable data or material.
- DoT is for health databases and biobanks, developed in response to expansion of data-driven research in 21st century.
- However, ethical principles for secondary use of data/material obtained in research remain unclear.

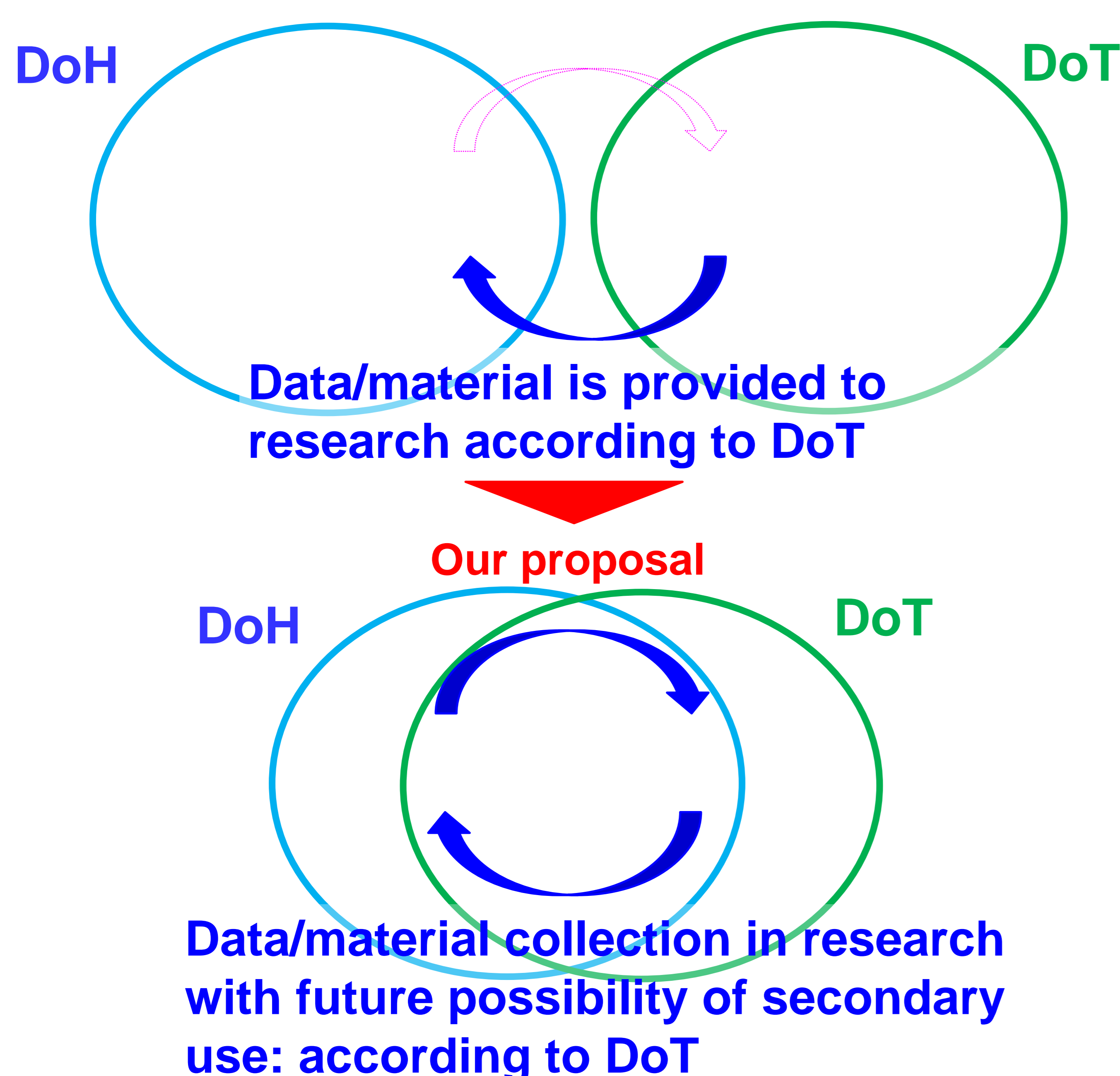
Objectives:

- IFAPP's recommendation for DoH on its necessary revisions to promote data-driven research, while continuing to strengthen human subject protection.
- This recommendation is based on official request from the WMA under the MoU for mutual cooperation.

Recommendations:

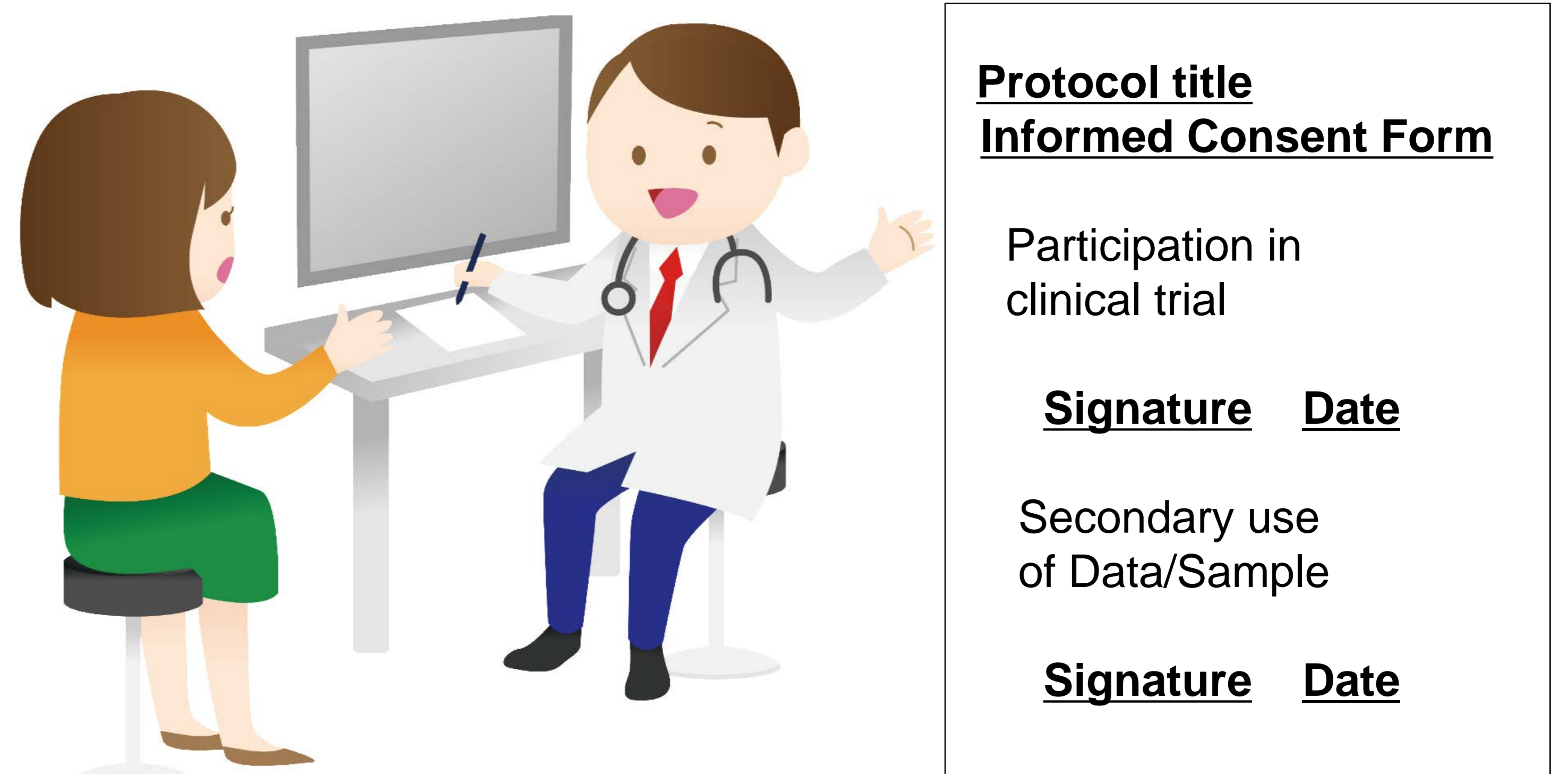
1. Connection between DoH and DoT

Data and/or biological material collected as a part of the research, which may be used for secondary analysis, should be in the scope of DoT, and this should be clarified in the "General Principles" of the DoH.



2. Ethical approval and consent for secondary use

- If the data/samples collected in research is anticipated to be used for other purposes after the research (=“secondary use”), it should be included in the research protocol for ethical approval.
- Informed consent should be obtained separately.
- This should be clarified by revisions of **paragraphs 22 (protocol) and 26 (informed consent)**.



3. Incidental findings

- The right of an individual of taking option of knowing/not knowing the research results should be assured.
- “Incidental findings” (IFs) during the research should follow the same principle, which should be clarified in **paragraph 26**. Examples:

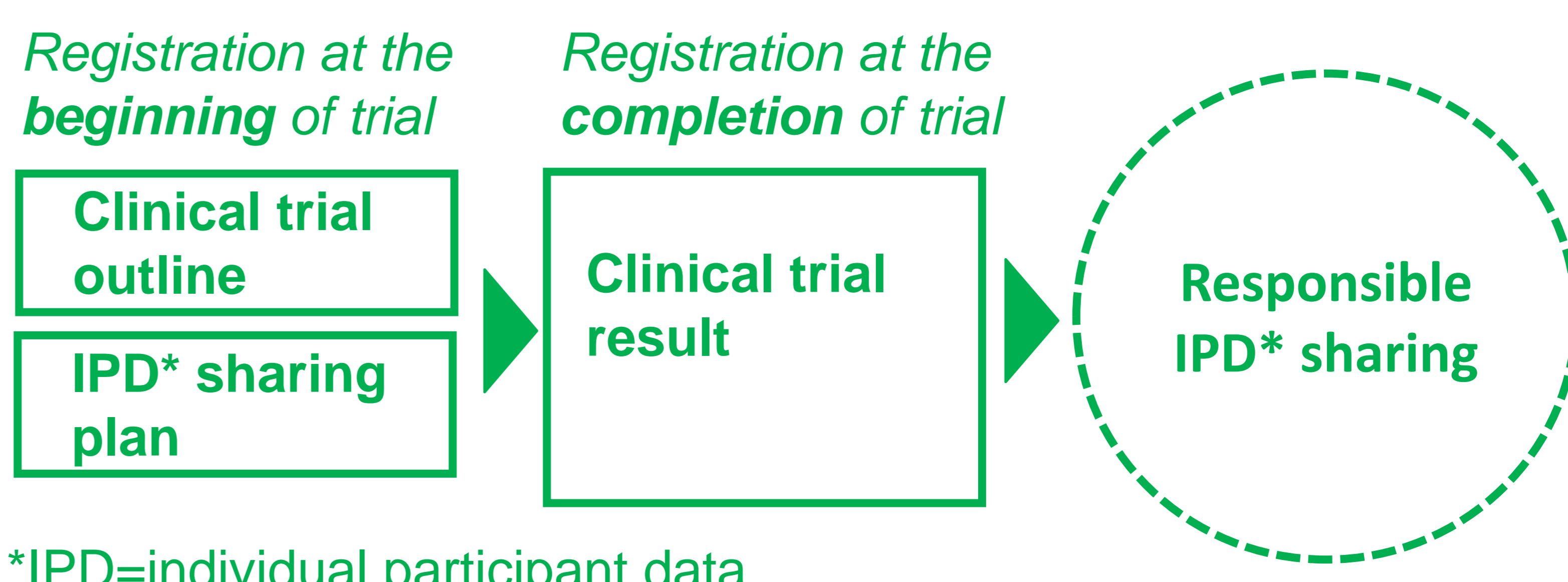
◆ Imaging of brain of healthy volunteer in AD* drug study.
◆ IF of brain tumor.

*AD=Alzheimer disease

◆ Pharmacogenetics clinical trial.
◆ IF of unproven genetic factor.

4. Sharing of study results and individual data

- In addition to registration of study outlines in public databases, registration of “data sharing plan” and “result” should be added to **paragraph 35**.



*IPD=individual participant data