





## ***Frequently asked questions***

### **Q Why will a sample of blood and urine be kept for future health studies?**

**A** We will store some of the blood and urine from persons who are examined in NHANES for future health studies. These samples will be frozen and kept in a specimen bank for as long as they last. You can request that your samples be removed at any time. Your participation is voluntary, and no loss of benefits will result if you refuse.

### **Q What studies will be done with the samples?**

**A** At this time, no specific studies are planned besides the tests included in the NHANES exam. As scientists learn more about health and diseases, other studies will be conducted that may include stored samples. There can be many additional studies on these samples.

### **Q Who can use the stored samples for further study?**

**A** Researchers from Federal agencies, universities, and other scientific centers can submit proposals to use the stored specimens. These proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit and then by a separate board that determines if the study proposed is ethical. The NHANES program will always know which samples belong to you or your child, but we will not give other researchers any information that could identify you or your child.

### **Q Will I receive results from any future testing of my specimens?**

**A** Science and medicine are continually advancing. New tests and new ways of looking at results will be developed in the future. We can't predict what tests will be done or what the results will mean for your health. Since testing of specimens will be done only for study purposes, the NHANES program will not contact you or your family with results from these future studies. We will describe the completed studies on our website. If you are interested in your results from any of these studies, you may call our toll-free number, 1-800 452-6115 to request your specific results as they come available.

### **Q What are the benefits and risks for allowing my blood or urine sample to be used for future studies?**

**A** You will not directly benefit but these studies may eventually help the health of people in the future. The risk of giving a sample includes the minor risk associated with taking the blood sample. There may also be a risk that some people may use the information from these studies to exaggerate or downplay differences among people. The ethics board that will review all studies using these samples will attempt to prevent any misuse of the information gained from the NHANES samples.

### **Q How can I remove blood or urine samples from the specimen bank?**

**A** In the future, if you want samples removed from the specimen bank, call us toll-free at 1-800-452-6115.