

CAMEROON

Cross-Border Sharing of Data

This section reviews the rules as required by data protection law in the cross-border sharing of personal data. The rules on the cross-border sharing of personal data under data protection law do not exist in a vacuum, and therefore other important information that must be followed when sharing personal data is discussed. This information, however, is comprehensive as it relates to the cross-border sharing of personal data.

The relevant national health research regulations as they relate to the cross-border sharing of personal data are reviewed. These national health research regulations set out the required legal and ethical conditions that must be met when processing personal data for research. Applicable national legal and ethical documents are listed, but the discussion only specifies the requirements as they relate to the cross-border sharing of personal data for research. The guide does not treat the legal and ethical requirements generally required for research, and therefore users of this guide must consult with these documents to ascertain these requirements and to ensure that they are met.

The section provides users with a comprehensive description of the requirements to be met in the cross-border sharing of personal data for research. It sets out all the necessary conditions that must be met to legally share data across borders for research.

In countries where no data protection law is in force, the necessary national legal and ethical requirements, as they relate to the cross-border sharing of data, are presented.

The cross-border sharing of data is governed by several legal and ethical regulations, all of which must be met prior to the sharing of data for research. There is no law governing the protection of data in Cameroon, but a Data Protection Bill is currently being drafted.

Health Research Regulations and Cross-Border Data Sharing

In addition to these national laws, several international treaties and conventions have been signed. Of importance in this domain is the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection ([the Malabo Convention](#)). Cameroon has also signed but not yet ratified the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection.

Law No 2022/008 Relating to Medical Research Involving Human Subjects in Cameroon

This is the relevant national legislation or guidance on the use of data in health research. This law sets out the legal and ethical requirements that must be met for the conduct of research in Cameroon. Under the legislation, cross-border sharing of data is not defined under the research regulatory frameworks. The legislation states that non-genetic health-related personal data may be disclosed abroad for research purposes if the data subject consents and there is a written data-sharing agreement, there is a written biological material-sharing agreement, and a national investigator is involved in the research project.

With regard to genetic data, such data may be exported only for research purposes if the data subject has given his or her free, informed and written consent; the body in charge of ethics establishes that the research cannot be conducted in Cameroon; and a national investigator is involved in the research project.