

1 General information

This privacy policy provides information about the processing of personal data, in particular in connection with the use of the website, the online services offered, communication, and other business transactions in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Personal data is only processed if there is a legal basis for doing so – for example, to fulfill a contract, on the basis of consent, or to protect legitimate interests. Only data that is necessary for the respective purpose is processed.

1.1 About us

The Institute for Biomedical Informatics is responsible for the processing of personal data.

Institute for Biomedical Informatics
University of Cologne, Faculty of Medicine and Cologne University Hospital
Kerpener Straße 62
50937 Cologne
BI-K-INFORM@uk-koeln.de

You can contact our data protection officer at dsb@verw.uni-koeln.de

This privacy policy applies to the processing of personal data, provided that reference is made to this policy in the respective context.

1.2 Rights of data subjects

Data subjects who meet the legal requirements have the right to:

- Information about their data in accordance with Art. 15 GDPR
- Rectification of inaccurate data in accordance with Art. 16 GDPR
- erasure of their data in accordance with Art. 17 GDPR
- Restriction of processing in accordance with Art. 18 GDPR
- Object to certain processing in accordance with Art. 21 GDPR
- Withdrawal of consent granted in accordance with Art. 7 (3) GDPR
- Complaint to a data protection supervisory authority in accordance with Art. 77 GDPR

1.3 To whom do we disclose personal data?

1.3.1 Order processing (Art. 28 GDPR)

For certain technical and organizational tasks, we use service providers who process personal data on our behalf. These so-called processors are contractually obliged to process data exclusively in accordance with the documented instructions, to take appropriate security measures, and not to disclose any data to unauthorized third parties. Examples of this are hosting service providers, IT support, or providers of form and communication services.

1.3.2 Data transfer to third countries (outside the EU/EEA)

If personal data is transferred to locations in so-called third countries, this is only done in compliance with the requirements of Art. 44 ff. GDPR. As a rule, EU standard contractual clauses are used for this purpose, or an adequacy decision by the European Commission is in place. In exceptional cases, a transfer may also be made on the basis of express consent.

1.4 Storage periods

We store personal data in accordance with legal requirements or your consent. We store personal data until the purposes for which it was collected no longer apply (e.g., upon termination of a contractual relationship or upon last activity if there is no continuing obligation, or in the event of revocation of your consent for the specific data processing).

Storage beyond this is only carried out if

- there are legal retention obligations (e.g., under the German Fiscal Code (AO) and the German Commercial Code (HGB));
- the data is still required for the assertion and exercise of legal claims or for defense against legal claims, e.g., due to technological and forensic requirements for defending against attacks on our web servers and their prosecution;
- the deletion would conflict with the legitimate interests of the data subjects; or
- another exception pursuant to Art. 17 (3) GDPR applies.

1.5 Obligation to provide personal data

The provision of certain personal data is required by law or contract or is necessary for the conclusion or performance of a contract. Without this data, it is not possible to fulfill the

respective obligation or perform the contract. Which data is required in each individual case is determined by the respective legal requirements or contractual provisions.

2 Website

2.1 Provision of the website

When you visit this website, certain technical information is automatically processed in order to provide the website and ensure its stable and secure operation. This includes, for example, your IP address, the date and time of access, browser type, operating system, and pages visited. This data is stored in log files by the web server. The processing is based on Art. 6 (1) (e) GDPR, as it is necessary for the performance of our tasks in the areas of public information, research, teaching, and administration. The stored information is retained for a period of 14 days and then deleted, unless there are legal retention obligations or longer storage is necessary to investigate security-related incidents. We use one or more external hosting providers to provide this website.

2.2 Cookies & Co

Our website stores information on visitors' end devices (e.g., through cookies) or accesses information that is already stored there (e.g., IP addresses). The specific information affected is detailed in the following sections of this privacy policy.

This storage and access is based on the following legal provisions:

- Absolutely necessary processes: Insofar as storage or access is absolutely necessary to provide an expressly requested telemedia service—for example, to use a chatbot or to ensure IT security—processing is carried out in accordance with Section 25 (2) No. 2 of the Telecommunications Digital Services Data Protection Act (TDDDG).
- Processes requiring consent: In all other cases, storage or access shall only take place with the consent of the data subject in accordance with Section 25 (1) TDDDG.

The subsequent processing of the data collected in this way is governed by the provisions of the GDPR, as explained in more detail in the following sections.

2.3 Contact form

When you contact us, the personal data you provide will be processed in order to process and respond to your request. Depending on the communication channel, this may include your

name, contact details, the content of your message, and technical metadata (e.g., IP address, time of request).

The processing is carried out for the purpose of implementing pre-contractual measures or fulfilling a contract in accordance with Art. 6 (1) lit. b GDPR or within the scope of our assigned tasks in the context of research, teaching, and administration in accordance with Art. 6 (1) lit. e GDPR.

2.4 Services & Tools

2.4.1 Google Maps

On our website, we use the Google Maps service provided by Google Ireland Limited (Gordon House, Barrow Street, Dublin 4, Ireland) to display interactive maps.

When you visit a page that includes Google Maps, personal data (e.g., IP address, location data, browser information) is transmitted to Google and processed there.

The legal basis for this processing is your consent in accordance with Art. 6 (1) (a) GDPR, which you give via the consent banner. Google Maps will not be loaded without your consent.

2.4.2 hCaptcha

We use the hCaptcha service from Intuition Machines, Inc. (350 Alabama St, San Francisco, CA 94110, USA) on our website to ensure that entries in forms are made by humans and not by automated programs (bots).

This represents a legitimate security interest and is necessary to ensure the technical integrity of our offering.

As part of the hCaptcha verification process, various data is transmitted to Intuition Machines, Inc., including:

- IP address
- Information about the device used
- Mouse and keyboard interactions
- Cookies (if set)
- Any other technical information required for analysis

Processing is carried out on the basis of Art. 6 (1) (e) GDPR in conjunction with the public tasks of the institution, as the protection of IT systems is necessary for the performance of tasks.

If the purpose is to check for misuse, Art. 6 (1) lit. f GDPR may also be applied.

2.4.3 Elfsight

On our website, we use widgets from the “Elfsight” service provided by Elfsight, SL (Carrer de la Constitució, AD700 Escaldes-Engordany, Andorra) to integrate current posts from our LinkedIn profile on the home page and in the footer. When this content is loaded, data may be transmitted to LinkedIn and processed there.

The legal basis for the use of Elfsight and the integration of LinkedIn content is your consent in accordance with Art. 6 (1) (a) GDPR.

The integration only takes place if you have consented to it via our consent management tool.

2.4.4 Algolia

We use the “Algolia” service from Algolia SAS, 55 Rue d'Amsterdam, 75008 Paris, France, for the search function on our website. Processing is carried out in order to provide users with a fast and efficient search within our online offering. In particular, the search query entered may be processed.

The legal basis for the use of Algolia is Art. 6 (1) (f) GDPR. Our legitimate interest lies in the user-friendly and technically optimized provision of a search function on the website.