

Case study for a small research group dealing with human samples: Ludwig Research Institute

We are a small research group, collecting human samples in conjunction with a HTA license. In order to meet the requirements of the tissue directive we needed to have a traceable system with a full audit trail that can tell them what samples we have, where they are currently stored and what has happened to them. We also needed multiple users to be able to access the system on different PC's.

We chose Pro-curo for its ease of set up and how it is usually setup with a pre-defined location structure. Each of our storage units could be profiled to our specification, for example a -80 freezer has three shelves, on each shelf we have four racks, within these racks we have three trays and within the trays we can store up to three boxes, similarly we have a liquid nitrogen vessel that has four segments and each segment has five boxes. Even where freezers are not completely racked out we have the freedom to adapt the storage locations to fit. The ability to set up multiple users on the system and limit their user rights makes the system secure for the users and samples. Our users needed to be able to go on to the system even after a period of not using it and be comfortable that the system would be easy enough to pick up again without further training.

We found the Pro-curo systems most useful feature is the history function, where you cannot edit or change a sample without a history record being produced; this feature gives us full trace ability of what has happened to our samples since their introduction into the Pro-curo system. Another feature that is regularly used is the sample information input, we could add as much or as little information as we needed on an individual sample and also attach a PDF of the patient's consent, so if needed in future we can just search for the sample and find the information needed all from one screen.

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