

Biolink: Powering biospecimen research through data linkage

CENTRE FOR HEALTH RECORD LINKAGE

USHA SALAGAME

18 Nov 2021



What is Biolink?



Biolink is about linking biospecimens to administrative data held by NSW Health.

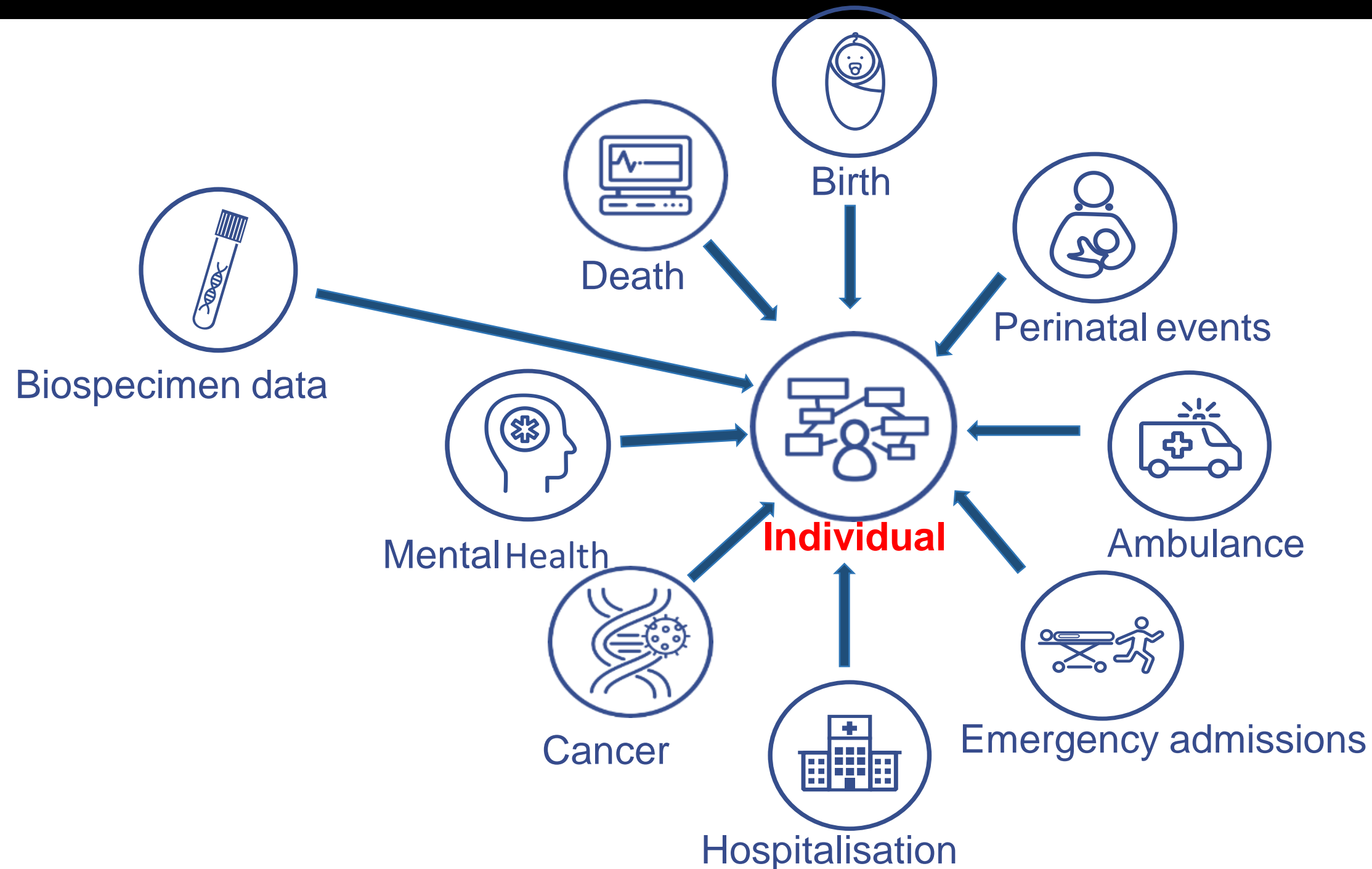
Biolink is

- a service of the Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL)
- offered exclusively to clients of the NSW Health Statewide Biobank (NSWHSB).
- provides researchers access to a vast array of population health and research data linked to biospecimens

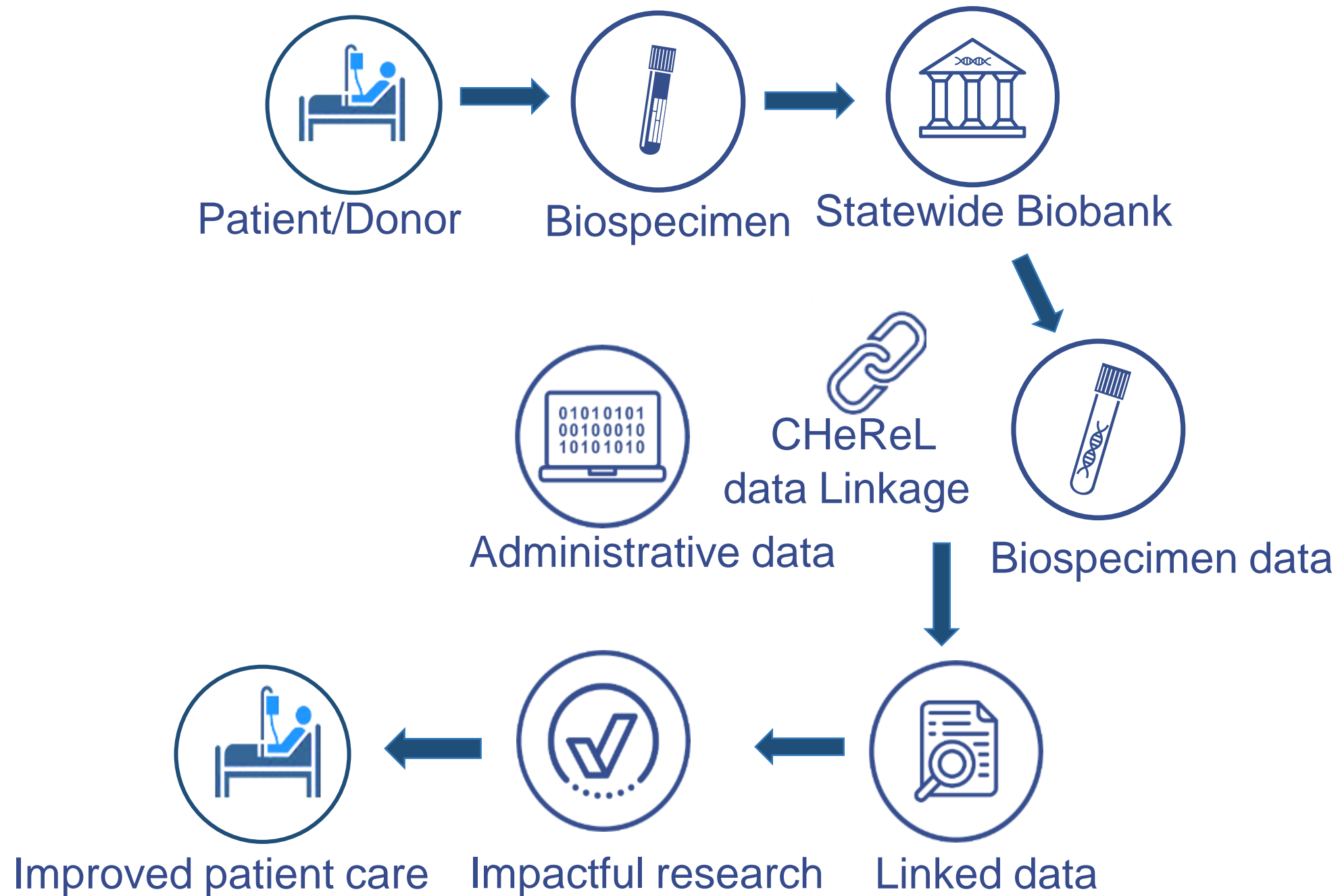
This service aims to:

- Provide an efficient and cost-effective alternative to manual follow-up
- Increase greatly the scope of the research that can be carried out

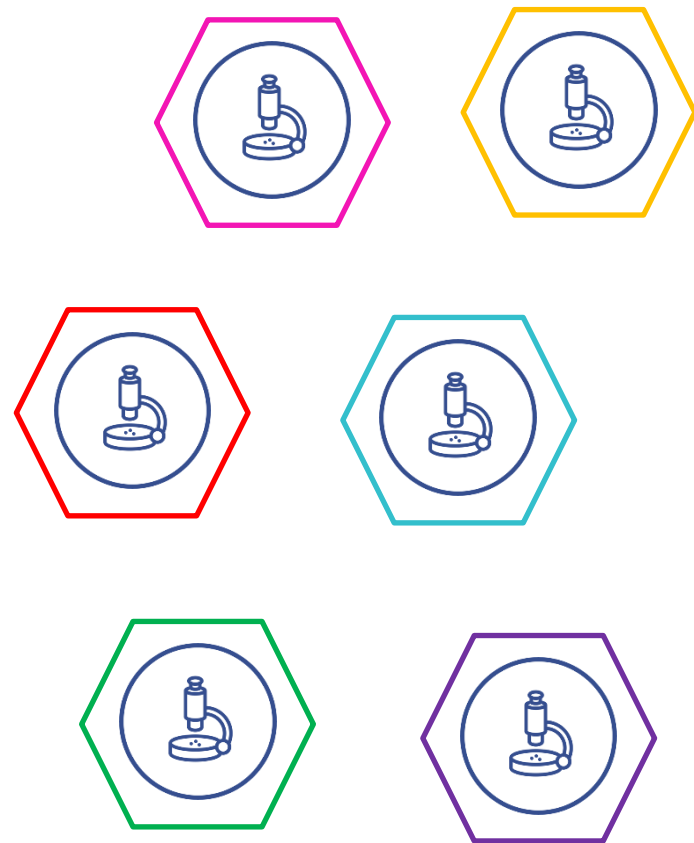
Biolink brings together health and biospecimen-associated information



Biolink powers biospecimen research



Data Linkage for statewide biobank



SWB: Many biospecimen collections with a single LIMS



CHeReL MLK



CHeReL: Many data collections with a single Person Number

Scope of Biolink

The service includes

- Establishing data linkage arrangements for Collection Custodians who deposit biospecimens with NSWHSB
- Advice on technical and governance aspects for establishing data linkage
- Enabling access to linked data for researchers who withdraw biospecimens from NSWHSB
- Providing expert advice on ethics approval and data custodian approvals

Linked data can be

- a set of routinely collected health data

AND/ OR

- include datasets and variables beyond those that are routinely linked and commonly accessed.

Biospecimen Collection Grant and Data Linkage

The CHeReL supports linkage of the biospecimens held under the Biospecimen Collection Grant to NSW Health data collections.

- Grantees will be able to link their collection to a range of routinely collected NSW Health datasets as well as to additional administrative datasets.
- To facilitate future research, applicants must agree to the linking their collection to the Biospecimen Linked Standard Data Asset.
- Grantees to contact the CHeReL and apply for linked data close to when they have accrued sufficient samples and their collection is research-ready.

Biospecimen-Linked Standard Data Asset (BLSDA)

Biospecimen Linked Standardised Data Asset (BLSDA)

- Is a novel model of service delivery,
- is being developed to simplify access to linked NSW Health data.
- is a core minimum health data asset of linked NSW Health data collections for participants of strategic collections.
- will be available off the shelf at no cost to eligible researchers.

The cohort for this data asset will include biospecimen donors of strategic NSW collections funded through OHMR Biospecimen Collection Grants.

Content data from the most commonly accessed health datasets will be linked periodically to biospecimen collections in the NSW State-wide biobank.

Next steps

- To discuss the data linkage EOI or grant conditions pertaining to data linkage, please contact us on 0416964782 or email moh-biolink-cherel@health.nsw.gov.au
- The data linkage EOI form included in the grant guidelines must be provided to the CHeReL by **30 Nov 2021**.

Useful links

- The Grant Guidelines are available at
- <https://www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au/app/uploads/2021/11/Biospecimen-Collection-Grants-Round-Three-Guidelines-November2021.pdf>
- For more information on Biolink service visit <https://www.cherel.org.au/apply-for-biolink>
- Examples of routinely collected NSW Health data and accompanying data dictionaries can be accessed at <https://www.cherel.org.au/datasets>

THANK YOU

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