



February 17, 2019

Exempt Research Certificate

Dear Applicant,

The Research Division at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has reviewed the research project entitled "*The Epidemiological Features of Herpes Zoster in the State of Qatar, 2012-2017*". The Principal Investigator, Dr. Hamad Al-Romaihi, confirmed that there will be no collection of identifiable information. Upon review, the research has been categorized as **exempt research under category (3)**: Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens, if these sources are publicly available or if the information is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that subjects cannot be identified.

However, please note that in accordance with MoPH policy, the regulations state that "research involving...interview procedures...{is exempt from this policy} unless (1) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subject can be identified directly or through identifiers linked to the subject **and** (2) disclosure of the human subject responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability, or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation". Under conditions mentioned in (1) and (2), the proposal must be reviewed by an Institutional Review Board Committee.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact us at 974-4407-0363 or via email at IRB@moph.gov.qa

Sincerely,

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