A. PURPOSE:

This Manual Chapter describes the four major “Model” Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) used by the Institutes and Centers (ICs) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

B. BACKGROUND:

The Public Health Service (PHS) has implemented several mechanisms to authorize and document the transfer of materials.

C. NIH APPROVED MTA MODELS

An MTA can be a model agreement or one specifically developed for the transfer of materials that complies with all applicable laws and with PHS policy. While the use of an MTA or other appropriate agreement is preferred when exchanging materials, the NIH provider and recipient investigators may exchange a letter or memorandum designating the materials transferred and general intended use for research not involving human materials or research with human subjects. The four NIH approved model MTAs are:

1. Uniform Biological Material Transfer Agreement (UBMTA) (see Policy Chapter 502)
2. NIH Simple Letter Agreement (SLA) (see Policy Chapter 503A)
3. Material Transfer Agreement for Transgenic Organisms (MTA-TO) (See Policy Chapter 504A)
4. Material Transfer Agreement for the Transfer of Human Materials for Research Purposes. (See Policy Chapter 505A)

The NIH Office of Technology Transfer also maintains copies of all Model MTAs on its website: http://www.ott.nih.gov/forms-model-agreements.

D. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Models discussed in this Chapter became effective as of the date each was approved by the PHS Technology Transfer Policy Board. This Chapter was approved by the PHS Technology Transfer Policy Board on March 8, 2012.
E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information on this Manual Chapter, contact the NIH Office of Technology Transfer, (301) 496-7057 or http://www.ott.nih.gov/contact-us.