

## **Appendix 33 ClaSS Prevalence survey: Definitions of study subject status categories**

### **Ghost**

A person who is confirmed as being not resident at their GP registered address at the time-point of the prevalence survey.

#### *Notes*

1. In some cases, contact with a household may indicate that someone is no longer at the address provided by the practice, but a new address is provided. If the new address is in the practice area and/or the practice confirm that they are willing to treat the person at this new address, then the database is updated, and the person is sent a new pack (unless it has already been forwarded by the householder). If the address is not one at which they can be treated by the practice, the patient is a 'ghost'.
2. Confirmation of residence at the address is by the mechanisms described in the prevalence study protocol. Individuals whose residence status has not been determined following completion of the pack-delivery and follow-up protocols are presumed to be ghosts. The effect of this presumption on prevalence estimates will be determined through sensitivity analyses.

### **Refuser**

A person who explicitly declines to participate in the prevalence survey.

#### *Notes*

Individuals may decline through return of a non-participation form or through verbally stating a wish not to participate either to a person delivering the study pack or to a person making telephone contact. In each of these instances the identity of the person declining to participate as the study subject will have been confirmed through the mechanisms described in the prevalence study protocol.

### **Participant**

A person who returns a sample or a questionnaire to the study laboratory.

#### *Notes*

In some instances a sample may be returned without a questionnaire or vice versa. In other instances the sample returned may not be amenable to testing for some reason. In all these instances attempts will be made to obtain a complete, testable sample and questionnaire "set" for that participant as described in the prevalence protocol. Where these attempts are unsuccessful the subject will remain a "participant" however data available on them will be incomplete.

### **Non-responder**

A person who is neither a ghost, refuser or participant.

#### *Notes*

Whilst the prevalence survey is still ongoing it is possible that individuals whose status is currently undetermined (and who by definition are thus non-responders) may ultimately be classified in one of the other three categories as a result of subsequent information. (see appendix 39)