

Appendix 39: rationale for final classification of study subjects

All study subjects can be classified as belonging to one of four status categories in relation to their receipt of a study pack (i.e. an invitation to participate in ClaSS). These classifications are relevant to the denominator in calculation of response rates (see protocol p22 and appendix 33). In general the classifications are made according to the coded courier returns or subsequent contact between the subject and the study team. In the 5% sub-sample involved in courier validation, information on subject status obtained directly by the study team (by telephone or home visit) supersedes that obtained from courier returns. Subject status categories are:

1. Received – receipt of study pack by named subject confirmed.
2. Refused – named subject explicitly declines to accept pack/participate.
3. Ghost – named subject confirmed not resident at address held by study team
4. No contact

The table below summarises these classifications

	Classification obtained by project staff via telephone calls or validation home visits				
Classification on courier sheet		Received (R)	Refused (RF)	Ghost (G)	No contact (NC)
	Received	R	RF	G	R
	Refused	R	RF	G	RF
	Ghost	R	RF	G	G
	No contact	R	RF	G	NC

Note that receivers (coded R in the table), then become participants if they return a sample, refusers if they return a non-participation form or verbally refuse, and otherwise become a non-responder. See appendix 33.