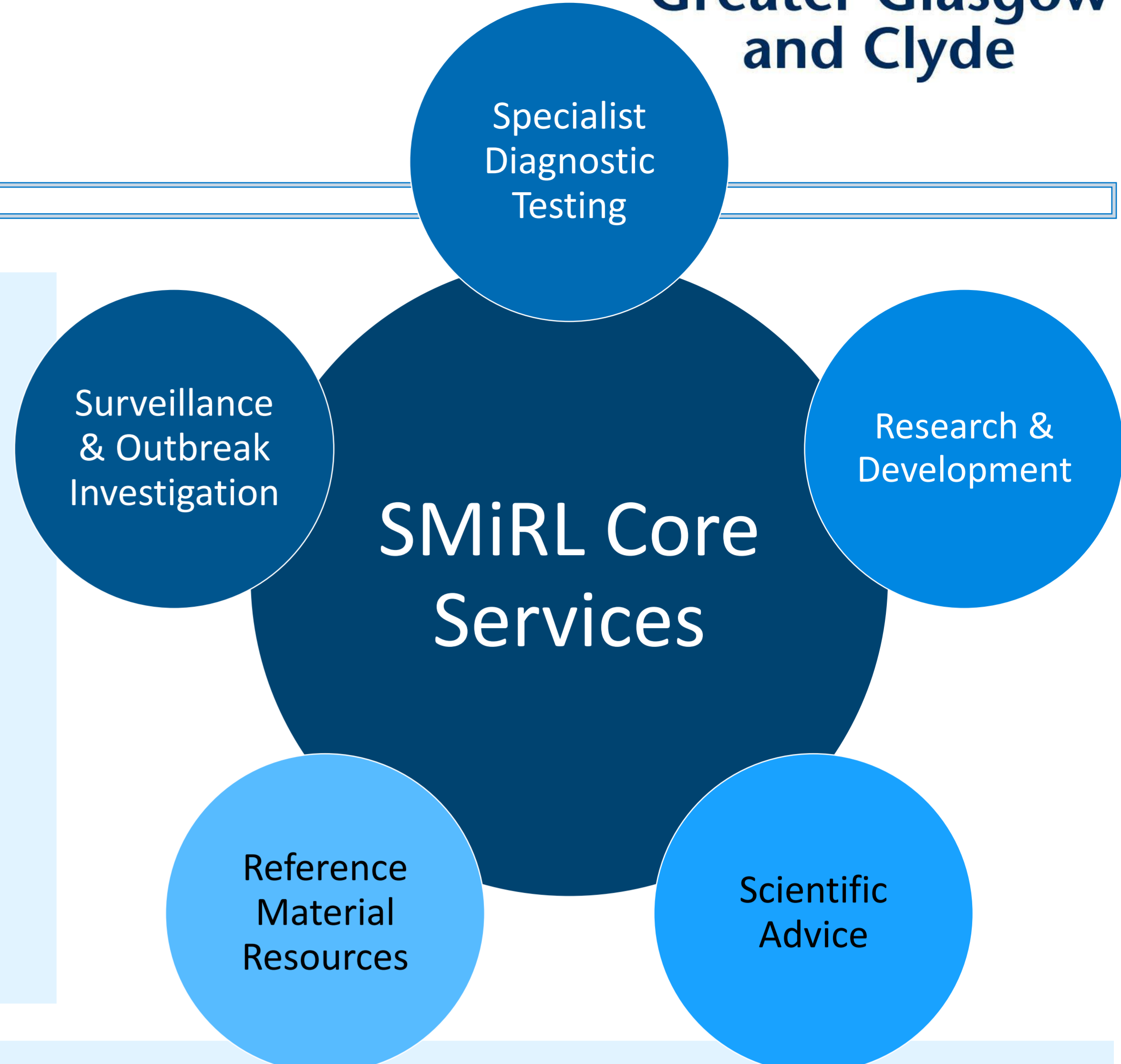


# Gastro-intestinal Outbreak Investigations at the Scottish Microbiology Reference Labs

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The **Scottish Microbiology Reference Labs (SMiRL)**, located in Glasgow, offers **specialist advice and diagnostic testing** for a range of infectious bacterial and parasitic diseases.

Commissioned by National Services Division for Scotland, SMiRL works closely with stakeholders to **provide essential healthcare services**, with support from Public Health Scotland (PHS).

**Gastro-intestinal (GI) outbreak investigations** identify the molecular types of circulating gut infections, and how these are spread through populations. SMiRL carries out GI outbreak investigations on:

**Enteric Bacteria**

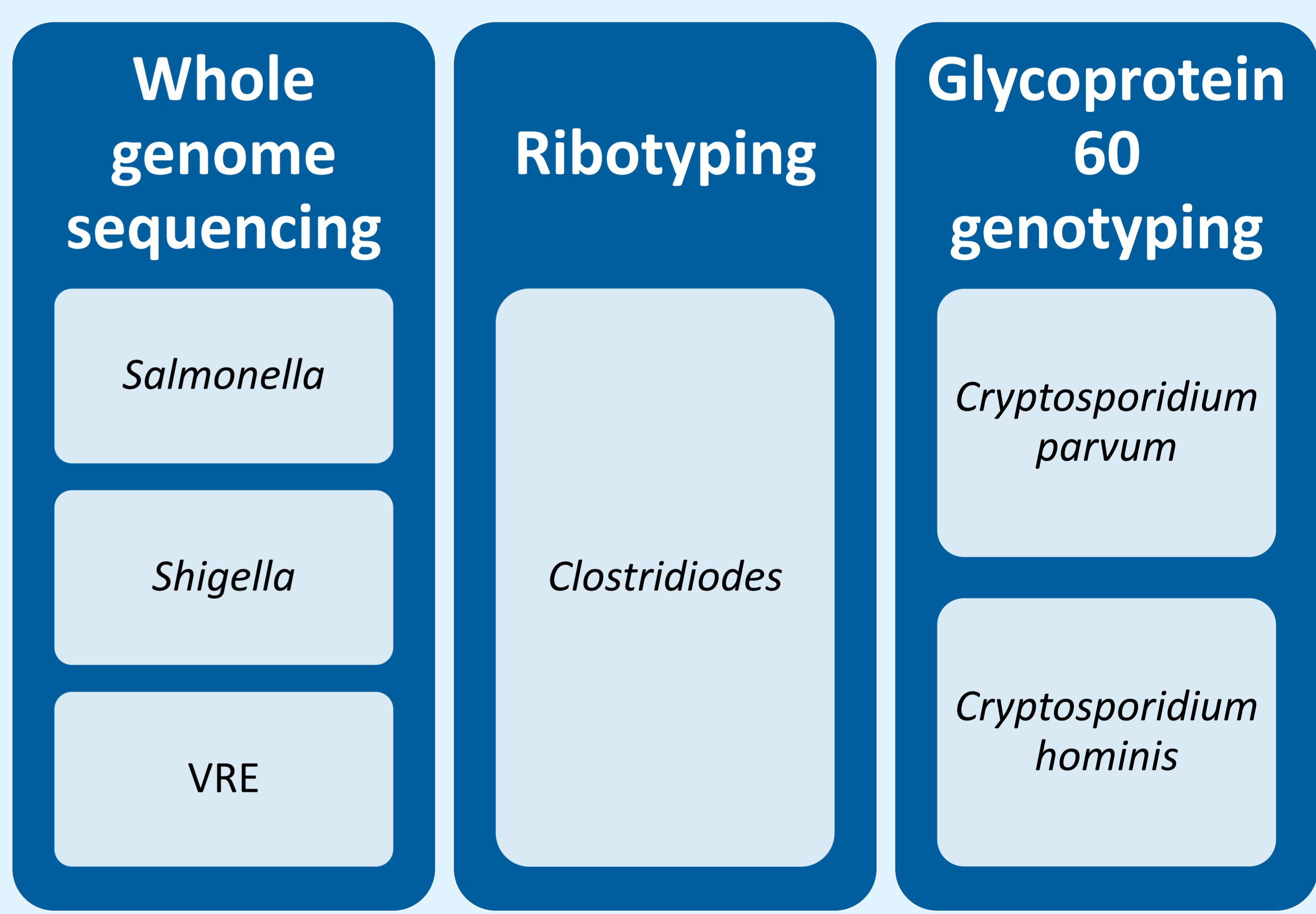
- *Salmonella*
- *Shigella*
- *Clostridioides*
- Vancomycin resistant *Enterococci* (VRE)

**Parasites**

- *Cryptosporidium parvum*
- *Cryptosporidium hominis*

Food and water samples can also be tested as part of GI outbreak investigations.

SMiRL uses **cutting-edge molecular techniques** to profile the genetic codes of gut microorganisms, and track transmission from one individual to another.



## Sample processing and data analysis involved in outbreak investigations

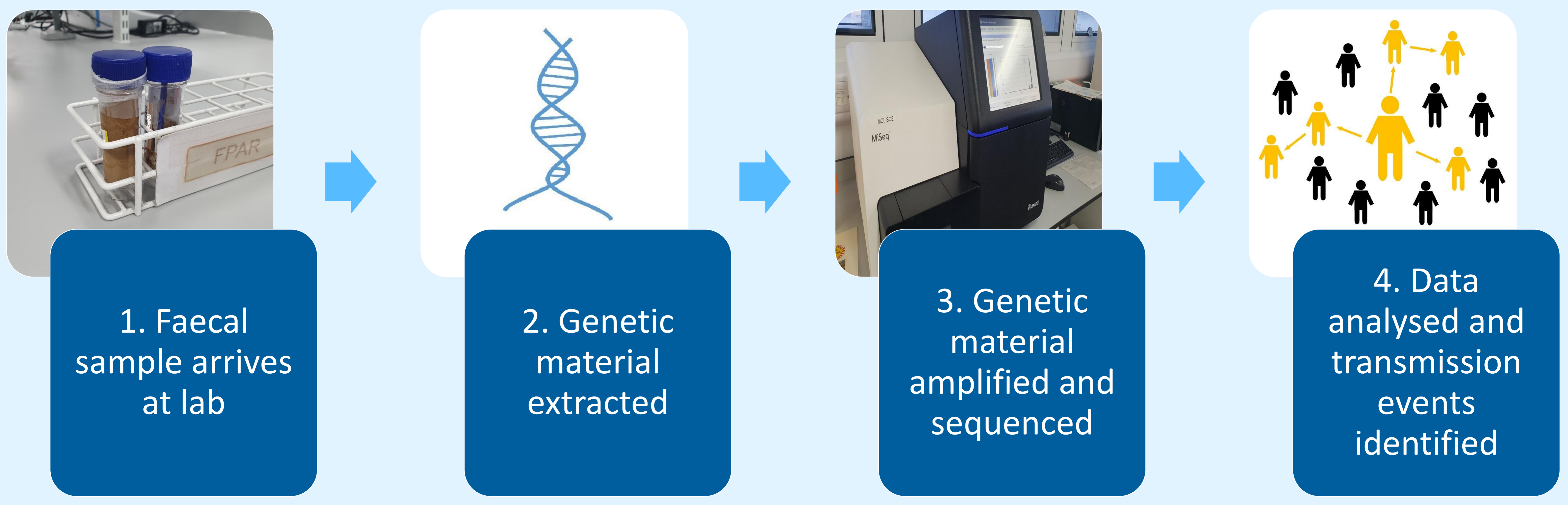


Image credits

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