



Welcome from the National Joint Registry

Welcome to this winter/spring edition and I am pleased to be able to officially **welcome Northern Ireland** (NI) on board. Information about joint replacement operations is already being collected and NJR Regional Coordinators have been visiting NI hospitals to help train local staff on the NJR system and processes.



Why not turn to the inside pages to find out more?

I am also delighted to report that the **Public and Patient Guide 2012** to the 9th NJR Annual Report is making its way to patient waiting areas. This means that joint replacement patients, their families and friends can find out more about the information we collect, what it means and how it can help improve patient experience.

Have you seen a copy of the Public and Patient Guide? You can request a copy using the contact details below. Alternatively, why not visit www.njrcentre.org.uk and take a look at our interactive online version.

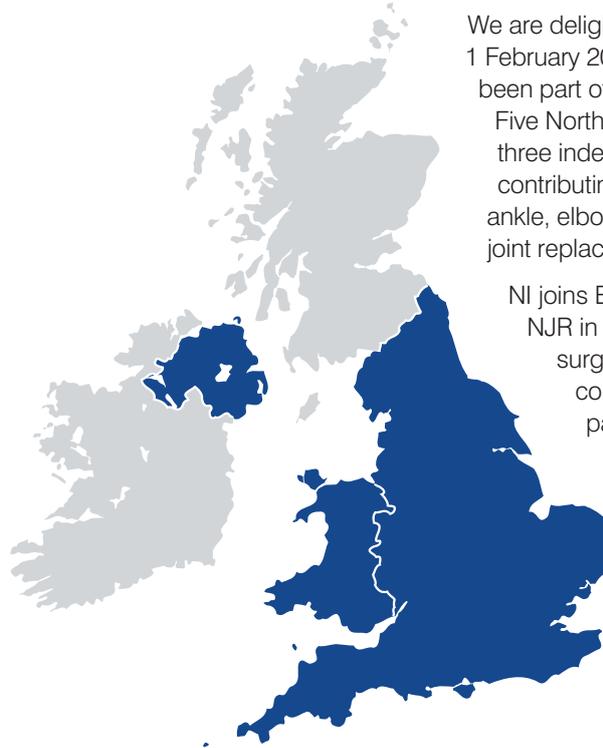
Comments are welcome at any time and we would be delighted to hear from you. Get in touch with us at communications@hqip.org.uk or call 020 7469 2546.

With best wishes,

Elaine Young

National Lead for the NJR

Northern Ireland joins the NJR



We are delighted to report that since 1 February 2013, Northern Ireland (NI) has been part of the National Joint Registry. Five Northern Ireland NHS hospitals and three independent hospitals are now contributing information for hip, knee, ankle, elbow and shoulder joint replacements.

NI joins England and Wales on the NJR in providing clinical evidence to surgeons and the wider healthcare community in order to protect patient safety and improve patient care. Recording operation details, along with patient information by consent, gives the NJR the ability to monitor implant and surgeon performance and highlight areas of poor and best practice.

“ By joining the National Joint Registry, clinicians in Northern Ireland will have access to greater information to support them in improving care for patients who need joint replacements. ”

John Compton, NI Health and Social Care Board chief executive

“ The more comprehensive the information we have, the more finely-tuned our analysis can become and the better support for patients and clinicians we can provide. We are extremely pleased Northern Ireland has joined the NJR and are delighted to be working with them. ”

Elaine Young, NJR lead

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On the ward in Northern Ireland

NJR Regional Coordinator Chris Hipkiss visited Ulster and Musgrave Park hospitals on a recent visit to NI, assisting local teams in their training on how to put information into the National Joint Registry system.

Following her visit she said: "Well – what a lovely, enthusiastic bunch of people I met in Northern Ireland. Everyone involved is very keen to get an efficient NJR process up and running as soon as possible."

At the Ulster Hospital, the local team told Chris that all patients who have been spoken to so far have been very positive about the work of the NJR. At this hospital, joint replacement patients will be asked for their consent by ward staff on admission.

The team also commented: 'We are confident that the vast majority of patients will consent to their personal details being held on the NJR. There will inevitably be challenges, as there always are when implementing a new process, but we are all enthusiastic about getting on board!'

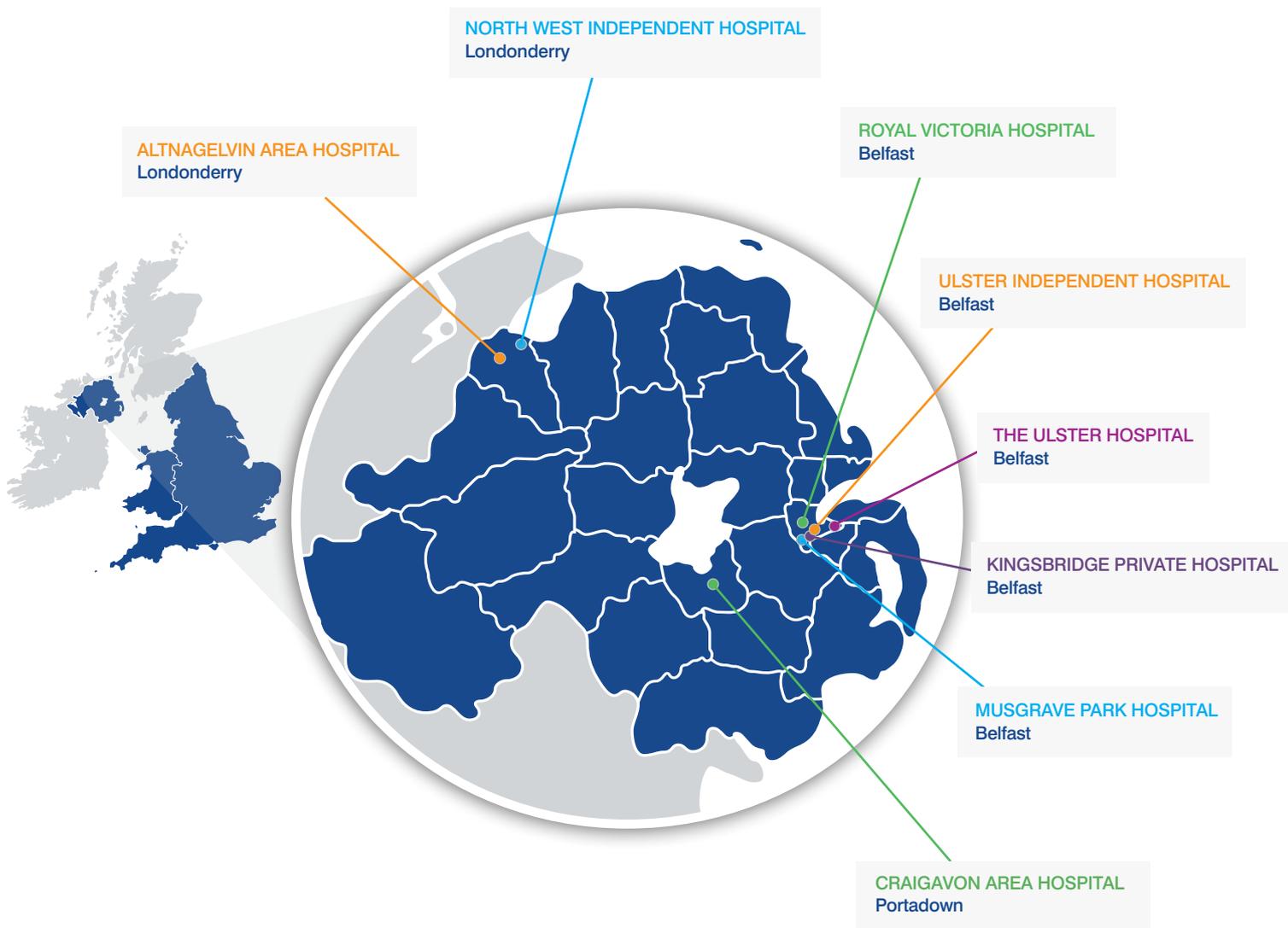
Later in the day at the Musgrave Park Hospital, Chris learnt that the management staff had been working very hard to ensure everyone involved, in any way, is fully aware of the part they will play in the NJR process. Here, patients are being asked for their consent at their pre-operative assessment appointment. In the early days the process is going to be checked by the arthroplasty outcomes team in a determined effort to ensure all patients have been made aware of the NJR.

A member of the team readily added: 'NJR operation forms are already available in all theatres and now we have had our training, data entry is underway.'

Of her visit, Chris Hipkiss concluded: "All hospitals in NI have set up new processes to ask joint replacement patients to consent to the NJR on admission and to collect operation data in theatres. We would like say thank you for their hard work in getting started and their future support of the registry."



Hospitals submitting to the NJR in Northern Ireland



Mr Gavan McAlinden, orthopaedic surgeon at the Musgrave and Ulster hospitals has been involved in the extension of the NJR to Northern Ireland. Now that the local processes are in place, Gavan gives us his view on what this means for his colleagues, their patients and the future of joint replacement surgery.

“ We, as a group of orthopaedic surgeons, are delighted to join the National Joint Registry. This is an important aide to our work as we can benchmark our operations against those of our colleagues in England and Wales. This should provide our patients with the reassurance that the operation which they are about to undergo is being rigorously monitored for quality. We have lobbied strongly for inclusion in the registry and have been greatly supported by our professional body, the British Orthopaedic Association.

As a joint replacement surgeon, I have eagerly awaited the annual report of the NJR each year. My only regret has been that data from our region did not previously form part of the report. In the past, I have used NJR data to inform my choices when undertaking surgery.

For several years in Northern Ireland we have been involved with the Public Health Agency, monitoring surgical site infection (any infection occurring as a result of an operation) in elective and trauma joint replacement surgery. We have seen that monitoring infection rates has had the effect of driving down the incidence of surgical site infection.

We also contribute data to the National Hip Fracture Database. Again, this has allowed us to identify the strengths in our practice, as well as identifying areas for improvement. Monitoring our work is incredibly important and we are confident

that participation in the registry will also allow us to improve standards.

Since our participation began, I have discussed the NJR with patients who were undergoing surgery. They are happy to consent to inclusion of their information on the registry and they understand the importance of the registry for them and for future patients – I hope any patients reading this newsletter will feel the same.

I must also say that this important development and extension of the NJR would not have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of our management and nursing colleagues, as well as the Public Health Agency and our Health and Social Care Board. I am delighted to have been part of this project and I am enthused about the years to come. ”

News and events

NJR Research Fellow appointed



The NJR is pleased to announce a third NJR Research Fellow position, following on from two successful posts held in 2011-2012. Organised in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons, we are delighted to welcome Jeya Palan on board.

Watch out in future editions of this newsletter for more about Jeya and the areas of work that he will be looking into.

The NJR will be appointing a fourth Research Fellow position in the near future.

About the NJR

The role of the National Joint Registry is to drive better care for joint replacement patients. Our registry helps to improve patient safety by monitoring the performance of artificial joints (implants) and the results of different types of surgery.

If you are a hip, knee, ankle, elbow or shoulder replacement patient you will be asked during your treatment for consent to store your personal details alongside those medical details of your operation. This combination of information means the NJR can:

- Help surgeons choose the best artificial joints (implants)
- Improve patient safety by checking how well artificial joints, surgeons and hospitals perform
- When implant problems are found, help surgeons decide quickly whether patients need to return to hospital
- Give hospitals and implant manufacturers feedback so they can improve their patient care

Patients' personal data is treated as confidential at all times and cannot be used outside of the NJR. This data is only available to the patient that it relates to and their surgeon.

Procedures are in place to secure the information and to keep it confidential. Data collected via the NJR may be used for medical research, but only if it has passed ethical review and if the outcomes are expected to provide significant benefits to the healthcare of patients. Any data provided is made anonymous so that it is not possible to identify individuals.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998), patients can request a copy of the personal information that the NJR holds about them at any time. Please visit www.njrcentre.org.uk for more information or call 0845 345 9991.

“ Fellows are a vital part of the NJR's active research programme, so that the scientific value of NJR data can be enhanced and lead to a whole range of research in areas related to joint replacement. There is no doubt that research is a crucial part of examining possible trends in joint replacement that can lead to improvements in standards of care. **”**

Alex Macgregor, NJR research committee chair

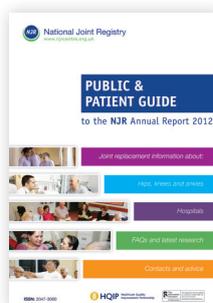


Copies of the Public and Patient Guide 2012 have been sent directly to hospitals for patient waiting areas.
Everyone can download the guide at www.njrcentre.org.uk.

NJR Public and Patient Guide 2012

The latest Public and Patient Guide is out now and can be downloaded for free at www.njrcentre.org.uk. There is a choice of an interactive online version or a standard PDF document. Improvements for the 2012 edition include an introduction to hospital-level

information, more charts with changes to make them easier to read, helpful definitions and FAQs about joint replacement and the National Joint Registry. All of these improvements were achieved with the help of patient feedback and the NJR Patient Network.



NJR eBulletin

The NJR is establishing an email news bulletin to share its latest updates. If you would like to subscribe please email rebecca.beaumont@hqip.org.uk.



Do you need more copies of Joint Approach for patient waiting areas?
Call 0845 345 9991 or download online at www.njrcentre.org.uk