



NJR Centre (based at)  
Northgate Public Services (UK) Ltd  
Peoplebuilding 2, Peoplebuilding Estate  
Maylands Avenue  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire, HP2 4NW  
NJR Service Desk: 0845 345 9991  
Fax : 0845 345 9992  
Email: [enquiries@njrcentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@njrcentre.org.uk)  
Web: [www.njrcentre.org.uk](http://www.njrcentre.org.uk)  
Facebook: /nationaljointregistry  
Twitter: @jointregistry

To: <<Group CEO>>  
<<Address 1>>  
<<Address 2>>  
<<Address 3>>  
<<Address 4>>  
<<Address 5>>  
<<Postcode>>

Our ref: DQA-1617-ISGroup

14 November 2016

**Immediate action required:**

**National Joint Registry 2016/17 supported programme to check the quality of your data**

Dear <<Group CEO>>,

Improving data quality is the number one overall strategic priority for the National Joint Registry. As such, we are delighted to report that independent sector organisations will be included in the NJR's mandatory audit programme to retrospectively check the quality of your data and your commitment to patient safety for 2016/17.

This is the second year the NJR has conducted this audit programme, with the first year involving NHS Trusts and Local Health Boards only. An overview of the 2015/16 audit findings from 110 NHS Trusts and Health Boards for the financial year 2014/15 are enclosed (enclosure D) for information.

This data audit represents a significant programme to gauge and ensure that the quality of the data held by the registry is representative of activity, accurate and robust. Therefore, it is critically important that organisations in the independent sector support this audit programme.

Relevant units will be asked to send data to the NJR in a provided data request template. The NJR has written to all relevant units within your organisation to begin this process – a copy of the letter is enclosed (enclosure E).

To engage with this audit, each participating unit in your organisation must provide a data extract of the records of all patients undergoing hip or knee primary and/or revision procedures during the 12 month period 01/04/15 – 31/03/16, identified using OPCS4 codes.

**This data must be received by the NJR no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016.** Therefore, we would be grateful if you could recommend each unit within your organisation to identify a data quality audit lead to the NJR, so the assigned individual can contact the NJR via [NJR.dataquality@nhs.net](mailto:NJR.dataquality@nhs.net) to receive the data request template in order to submit the required data. This can be done at a local unit level using the enclosed data quality audit lead form (enclosure A).

Cont'd...

*For all the latest news, views and website updates from the NJR, subscribe to our monthly eBulletin at [www.njrcentre.org.uk](http://www.njrcentre.org.uk).*

Please find enclosed a detailed NJR data quality compliance process information sheet (enclosure B). This document provides a detailed walkthrough and the subsequent steps of the audit.

### What do we need your help with?

- Your support in disseminating to all relevant units in your organisation the associated work required with **fully completing this important audit activity by 31st March 2017**
- Your support in establishing a data quality audit lead in each participating unit

### What will you get out of it?

- A clearer understanding of how representative your performance data is based on data quality
- Opportunity to improve information flows and data collection processes
- Gain NJR Quality Data Provider certification, subject to your active participation as outlined on the enclosed information sheet (enclosure C)

### When will you hear from us again?

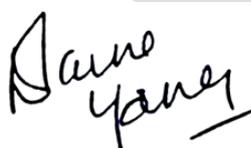
- Once data completeness has been evaluated, the NJR will provide you with a comprehensive report of the audit findings and recommendations for improvements

Understanding data as a tool for quality improvement is an important part of the ongoing, data-driven change that is happening right across the orthopaedic sector. NJR data also provides an important source of evidence for regulators, such as the CQC, to inform their judgements about services within your organisation, as well as being a fundamental driver to inform improved quality of care for patients. Therefore, it is imperative that the data provides an accurate picture of what is happening locally so that the right decisions are made.

This data audit programme is just one way that we can help you to ensure your organisation's data quality and we hope to have your support.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure the quality of data in the registry.

Yours sincerely,



**Elaine Young**  
Director of Operations-NJR



**Mr Martyn Porter**  
Medical Director-NJR

**Enclosed:** A: NJR Data Quality Audit Lead Nomination Form  
B: NJR Data Quality Compliance Process – information sheet  
C: NJR Quality Data Provider scheme – information leaflet  
D: 2015/16 (FY2014/15) NHS Trust and Health Board Compliance Results  
E: Copy of the letter distributed to units within your organisation

**Copied to:** Group Responsible Officer

*For all the latest news, views and website updates from the NJR, subscribe to our monthly eBulletin at [www.njrcentre.org.uk](http://www.njrcentre.org.uk).*