



FAO The Matron / Head of Clinical Services

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<Address 3>>

<<Address 4>>

<<Address 5>>

<<Postcode>>

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
Web: www.njrcentre.org.uk
Facebook: /nationaljointregistry
Twitter: @jointregistry

Our ref: DQA-1617-ISUnit

14 November 2016

Immediate action required:

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

FAO Head of Clinical Services,

Improving data quality is the number one overall strategic priority for the National Joint Registry. As such, we are delighted to introduce the NJR's mandatory audit programme to retrospectively check the quality of your data and your commitment to patient safety for 2016/17.

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 hospitals in the independent sector support this mandatory audit programme.

What do we need your help with?

- To participate in this important audit, all units are asked to send data to the NJR in a provided data request template. This involves providing 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 at [unit name – merged information]. The template will be provided once you have returned the contact details requested (enclosure A)
- **This data must be received by the NJR no later than 31st December, 2016**
- Therefore, we would be grateful if you could recommend a data quality audit lead for your hospital to the NJR. This can be done using the enclosed data quality audit lead form (enclosure A)
- The assigned individual will then be contacted directly by email by the NJR with the data request template for completing

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For all the latest news, views and website updates from the NJR, subscribe to our monthly eBulletin at www.njrcentre.org.uk.

Please also 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. The NJR has a dedicated e-mail account for all data quality audit enquiries: **NJR.dataquality@nhs.net**. Please do not hesitate to contact the NJR if you need support or have any queries related to the audit.

Please note, we have informed your organisation's CEO and Responsible Officer about the introduction of the data quality audit for hospitals in the independent sector.

What will you get out of it?

- A clearer understanding of how representative your performance data is based on data quality
- Opportunity to improve local 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?

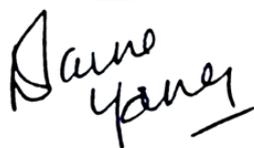
- Once data completeness has been evaluated, the NJR will provide you with a comprehensive report of the audit findings and recommendations for improvements

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 hospital, 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 NJR 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

Copied to: The CEO and Responsible Officer for your organisation

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