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Our ref: DQA-1617-TrustCEO

10 October 2016

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

Dear <CEO>,

The National Joint Registry is delighted to report that we will be continuing our mandatory audit programme to retrospectively check the quality of your data and your commitment to patient safety.

This involves your Trust providing an extract of data from your Patient Administration System relating to hip and knee primary and revision procedures for the financial year 2015/2016. Supported by NHS England, this retrospective 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.

The work associated with fully completing this important audit activity by 31st March 2017 is being led by <TRUST>'s NJR Clinical Lead, <CL NAME>.

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. I am sure that you will also understand that the NJR data and the quality of the data are vital given the requirement now to publish consultant-level outcomes for orthopaedic surgeons within your Trust.

NJR data also provides an important source of evidence for regulators, such as the CQC, to inform their judgements about services within your Trust, 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.

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, including coding errors that can represent lost income
- Gain NJR Quality Data Provider certification, subject to your active participation as outlined on the enclosed information sheet (enclosure A)

Cont'd...

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There is also a financial benefit for Trusts too. Since April 2014, payment of the Best Practice Tariff (BPT) for primary hip and knee replacement surgery is conditional on criteria linked to data collected through the NJR. Additionally, whilst engaging with the programme during the previous financial year, several Trusts uncovered a small number of NJR records which had not been entered into local patient administration systems and would have otherwise resulted in the potential loss of income.

A high-level overview of the 2015/16 audit findings from 110 Trusts and Health Boards for the financial year 2014/15 are enclosed (enclosure B).

What do we need your help with?

- Your support for your team's work associated with fully completing this important audit activity by 31st March 2017.

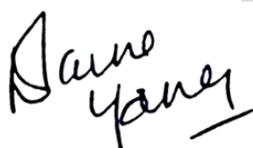
When will you hear from us again?

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

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 team 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 Quality Data Provider scheme – information leaflet
B: 2015/16 (FY2014/15) Trust and Health Board Compliance Results

Copied to: Trust Medical Director
Trust NJR Clinical Lead