

Joint Approach

The newsletter of the National Joint Registry

NJR news in brief

Improving access to NJR data

NJR Reports Online is a new service allowing surgeons and hospital managers to access a variety of reports via the NJR website:

- Surgeons can view information about their patients and procedures
- Hospital managers can view data on implant usage and the number and types of procedures being carried out.

To access the reports:

- Go to the NJR website (www.njrcentre.org.uk)
- Click on 'Data Entry' from the homepage
- Click on 'Data Forms' and then log in using your username, memorable data and password*
- Select 'Reports Menu' from the options displayed
- Select 'ReportsOnline' to view the reports that you have access to.

To run a report, select the period for the report, select the hospital, highlight the report you wish to run and then click on 'Show Report'.

The feedback received so far has been enthusiastic. The NJR Centre will continue to work with other stakeholders including hospital managers to extend the range of reports available and to make enhancements to the service. Please send your comments and suggestions to the Service Desk (enquiries@njrcentre.org.uk).

*If you cannot remember your login details or need to register for a new account, please contact the NJR Service Desk on 0845 345 9991.

The NJR StatsOnline



You can now get more information from the NJR website. The NJR website (www.njrcentre.org.uk) is being updated to ensure that all information is current and accurate. This is part of a wider review and re-design of the website.

NJR StatsOnline (www.njrcentre.org.uk/StatsOnline/), which contains information on the number of records submitted by each hospital and treatment centre, and on patient consent rates, is updated monthly. Work continues to improve this easily accessible information source.

All independent healthcare providers have agreed to have their data included on the website. It has recently been amended to reflect the new SHA structure in England. A new feature is the reporting of the actual procedure date as well as the submission date, so that delays in submitting data to NJR can be identified.

NJR Website

As well as improvements to NJR StatsOnline, the NJR website (www.njrcentre.org.uk) is being updated to ensure that all information is current and accurate. This is part of a wider review and re-design of the website.

There is a selection of guides, including the Patient Consent Good Practice Guide and Data Entry Good Practice Guide, and case studies on the website to help surgeons, organisations and staff to collect, submit and access NJR data. These can be found in the Healthcare Providers section.

The National Joint Registry aims to improve patient care by finding out more about hip and knee joint replacement implant performance, joint replacement surgery and best practice.

NJR is making a real difference – our progress so far...

Linking NJR to Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) and the Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW)

HES and PEDW are national databases from England and Wales respectively containing detailed records of all admissions to NHS hospitals (including day cases). Information available from HES/PEDW includes admission method, time waited for elective surgery, length of stay, plus comprehensive diagnosis and procedure coding.

Using common record identifiers, the NJR Centre has undertaken a linkage exercise, associating an NJR record with its corresponding HES record. This work initially focuses upon assuring the validity of the data and enabling the comparison of NJR data to HES data. The plan is to extend the linkage to include other relevant HES records. For example, as HES contains record-level data back to 1989 (prior to the establishment of the Registry) it offers the opportunity to match this data with revisions recorded within NJR, advancing analysis of linked revisions.

This work is still in its very early stages but provides the basis of an exciting development, enriching the information available on hip and knee replacement procedures. You will be kept informed of progress through future newsletters.

Linking data – the importance of patient consent to link records

Patient consent is needed to enter patients' personal data on the NJR. By using a patient's personal details the NJR Centre can link the records of different joint replacement procedures on individual patients. This will allow examination of information on the implant(s) they receive as well as any future joint implant surgery they may have or any revision operations and will help us learn more about hip and knee joint replacement procedures and the reasons for revisions and re-operations. This makes it possible for patients to be traced if the performance of an implant is identified as a problem and is essential if the performance of implants is to be monitored and improved.

All hip and knee replacement patients should be given the opportunity to participate in the NJR. You can check your current patient consent rates on NJR StatsOnline (www.njrcentre.org.uk/StatsOnline/), or by using the new NJR ReportsOnline facility, (see front page of this newsletter).

An ongoing programme of improvements

A review of progress between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, reported in the NJR Annual Report 2005-06, highlighted advances in all areas.

The 132,191 procedures entered on the NJR between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006 represented about 82% of all hip and knee joint replacement operations carried out in England and Wales during that time, when compared to implant sales. This brought the total number of operations recorded on NJR between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2006 to 300,876.

Nearly all NHS and independent healthcare units that provide hip and knee joint replacement procedures in England and Wales submitted data to the NJR during 2005-06. This financial year, 392 units have submitted data out of an expected 409 units (95.8%).

Between 1 April 2006 and 30 September 2006 (the first half of this financial year) the NJR compliance was 89.3%. This improvement in compliance (ascertainment) rate of hip and knee joint replacement procedures is encouraging and a step towards the goal of 95% recorded on the NJR by 2008.

Progress continues slowly on gaining patient consent and NHS number, both of which are vital for linking patient revisions of hip and knee joint replacements with records on their primary procedure.

The number of records with patient consent during 2005-06 was 74% - however, just 58% had both patient consent and an NHS number. The consent rate continues to rise and was 78.1% for 2006-07 Q1 and 80.3% for 2006-07 Q2, resulting in a consent rate of 79.9% for the first half of this financial year.

For details of data submissions, compliance levels and consent rates see the new ReportsOnline facility or NJR StatsOnline (www.njrcentre.org.uk/StatsOnline/).

Surgeons can look at these in more detail by using the new NJR ReportOnline facility (see front page of this newsletter).

NJR Annual reports now available

The NJR Annual Report 2005-06 and the NJR 3rd Annual Clinical Report (2005) are now available on the NJR website. (www.njrcentre.org.uk)

The NJR Annual Report 2005-06

reports on the performance and developments of the NJR from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. It also provides an account of the work, composition and funding of the NJR Steering Committee, and indicates key areas for future development.

(http://www.njrcentre.org.uk/Public/current_annual_report.htm)

The NJR 3rd Annual Report

charts the progress of the NJR, focussing particularly on analysis and interpretation of data collected for hip and knee replacement procedures that took place between 1 January and 31 December 2005, and that were submitted by 28 February 2006.

(http://www.njrcentre.org.uk/Public/current_annual_report.htm)

How do I get a copy?

The reports are available to download from the NJR website, and hard copies of both reports will be sent to all NJR registered orthopaedic units. Anyone else wishing to have a hard copy should contact the NJR Service Desk, stating which report they wish to receive.



Are you up to date?

Eleven units undertaking hip and knee replacement surgery have not submitted any records to NJR this year. Patient consent rates still vary considerably between units, but across the NJR currently stand at 79.9% for the first half of this financial year.

Is your unit (hospital or treatment centre) up to date with its data entries for NJR? Have all the hip and knee replacement surgical procedures carried out during since 1 April 2006 been entered on NJR? Have you routinely been obtaining patient consent for NJR data and entered that on your return? If you are not sure of your position you can check on NJR StatsOnline or surgeons can check on NJR ReportsOnline.

The NJR relies on your data being entered on the NJR database.

Do you need any help?

The NJR Co-ordinators – are here to help you

The NJR has two groups of Co-ordinators (Regional Clinical Co-ordinators and Regional Co-ordinators) who are there to offer practical advice, support and guidance to orthopaedic units and NJR users.

Regional Co-ordinators

The NJR Centre has six Regional Co-ordinators (formerly known as Regional Audit Co-ordinators) who are available to provide support and guidance to all NJR users at a local level:

- **Anna Barclay:** North West of England.
- **Sue Campey:** East of England, Lincolnshire, Kent and Medway, North East, North Central and South East London.
- **Marian Gibson:** Avon, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire, Thames Valley, North and South West London, Beds and Herts.
- **Chris Hipkiss:** Wales, West Midlands, Leicester, Northamptonshire, and Rutland.
- **Ryan Shirlow:** North East of England, Yorkshire, Trent
- **Anita Warren:** Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, the South West of England.

Full contact details and the list of units that each Co-ordinator supports are available in the Regional Co-ordinators' area of the NJR website. (www.njrcentre.org.uk/documents/racs/rac_index.htm).

Regional Clinical Co-ordinators

The NJR is supported by a network of orthopaedic surgeons who act as Regional Clinical Co-ordinators (RCCs). They offer practical guidance and advice about the NJR to all orthopaedic units. There are four RCC network meetings each year. Should you wish the RCCs to raise issues on your behalf, please contact them directly. Contact details for all RCCs can be found in the Regional Clinical Co-ordinators area of the NJR website (www.njrcentre.org.uk/documents/rccs/rcc_index.htm)

NJR Steering Committee – members and representatives

The NJR Steering Committee (NJRSC) has been an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body since January 2005.

Most members completed their original term of office on 30 September 2006. Following an open recruitment process, the Appointments Commission appointed a mixture of existing members and new members:

William Darling, Chair
Michael Borroff, Orthopaedic Device Industry
Marty Cowern, Patients representative
Paul Gregg, Orthopaedic Surgeon
Anthony Lowther, Orthopaedic Device Industry
Alexander MacGregor, Epidemiology and Public Health
Carolyn Naisby, Practitioner with special interest in Orthopaedics
Martyn Porter, Orthopaedic Surgeon
Tim Wilton, Orthopaedic Surgeon (until 20 April 2007)
Patricia Durkin, Patients representative
Andrew Woodhead, Senior management (NHS)

New members appointed:

Keith Tucker, Orthopaedic Surgeon (from 1 May 2007)

A list of current NJRSC members and representatives is available in the Steering Committee area of the NJR website (www.njrcentre.org.uk/documents/steeringcomm/sc_index.htm).

Recruitment to the remaining vacancy, independent healthcare sector post, is currently underway; (see www.appointments.org.uk).

NJR Centre contract

The contract for managing and running the National Joint Registry (NJR) was awarded to Northgate Information Solutions (UK) Ltd.

Northgate took over from Momenta on the completion of their contract on 1 April 2006. In saying farewell and thank you to Momenta, Bill Darling, Chairman of the NJR Steering Committee noted the work and considerable contribution to the development of the NJR that Momenta had made since work began on the NJR in 2002.

About Northgate

Northgate runs and manages several local and national services focused upon the collection, processing, and analysis of healthcare data. These include the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) service, which Northgate runs on behalf of The Information Centre for Health and Social Care, and both the English and Scottish Newborn Hearing Screening Programmes (NHSP).

The NJR Centre is now located in Hemel Hempstead alongside the HES and NHSP teams, ensuring that experience and knowledge is shared among the teams.



If you would like to make a contribution to the spring newsletter please contact the NJR Helpline on 0845 345 9991, or send an email to enquiries@njrcentre.org.uk. Let us know what you would find useful and would like to see in the next issue of the Joint Approach.

All NJR information and documents are available on the NJR website (www.njrcentre.org.uk).

If you do not have access to the website, contact the NJR Helpline to receive a copy by email or by post.

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact us.

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