Review Date: **New policy**
Date Developed: **January 2019**
Principal Responsibility: **AOA Board**
Endorsed: **2 March 2019**

Approved by:	Title: CEO	Name: Adrian Cosenza	Signature/date
			7 March 2019

OUTCOME:
This policy outlines the overarching principles that guide the linkage of AOANJRR data with external datasets.

BACKGROUND:
The AOANJRR encourages and facilitates the use of Registry data to undertake research aimed at improving outcomes for patients who undergo joint replacement procedures.

Access to Registry data is managed by AOANJRR using specific processes and procedures to ensure the security, correct interpretation and quality of the data is maintained. The Commonwealth of Australia has declared the AOANJRR a Federal Quality Assurance Activity under Part VC of the Health Insurance Act, 1973.

The AOANJRR regularly receives requests to link external data sets with Registry data. The AOANJRR has developed a specific data linkage protocol designed to ensure that the security, interpretation and quality of the Registry data is maintained, and the privacy and confidentiality of data is preserved.

DEFINITIONS:
- AOA - Australian Orthopaedic Association
- AOANJRR - Australian Orthopaedic Association National Joint Replacement Registry
- SAHMRI - South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute

POLICY
This policy applies to data linkage projects developed by clinicians, statisticians and researchers internally within the AOANJRR and to other external institutions wanting to link to AOANJRR data.

STRATEGIES:
1. Approval
2. Project Protocol
3. Ethics
4. Linkage Process
5. Transfer of Data
6. Registry Clinician Involvement

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1. Approval

All requests for Data Linkage with AOANRR data will be submitted in writing via the AOANJRR Manager and formally approved by the Registry Working Group. The timeline for approval of requests for data linkage, linkage of data (where conducted by the AOANJRR) and release of linked data will be dependent on workload demands within the Registry.

2. Project Protocol

Submission of a data linkage request will be accompanied by a documented Project Protocol.

3. Ethics

Ethics approval will be required for all data linkage projects.

4. Linkage Process

The process for data linkage will comply with the AOANJRR Standard Operating Procedure for Data Linkage.

5. Transfer of Data

All transfer of data into and out of the Registry will be done in a secure manner.

6. Access and Storage of data

All AOANJRR data will be maintained in a secure environment with access limited to personnel named on the Project Protocol

7. Registry Clinician Involvement

All data linkage projects will have a Registry Clinician included on the research team unless otherwise approved by the Registry Working Group.

SEE ALSO

Name	Section	Location	Comments
AOANJRR Authorship and Publications Policy			

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR/S

Number of complaints
Number of breaches of policy