CORRECTED TEXT

DATA VALIDATION

The Registry validates data collected from both public and private hospitals by comparing it to data provided by state and territory health departments. Validation of Registry data is a sequential multi-level matching process against health department unit record data.

The validation process identifies:
1. Registry procedure records for procedures notified to state/territory health departments by hospitals.
2. State/territory records for procedures not submitted to the Registry by hospitals.
3. ‘Exact match’ procedures, that is, records held by the Registry and state/territory health departments.
4. Procedures that match on some parameters, but which require additional checking with hospitals to enable verification.

Initial validation is performed using hospital and patient identity numbers with subsequent verification undertaken on relevant procedure codes and appropriate admission periods.

Data errors can occur within Government or Registry data at any of these levels; that is, errors in patient identification, coding, or admission period attribution by either the hospital, state/territory health department or the Registry. Data mismatches are managed depending on the nature of the error. For example, a health department record for a primary ‘knee’ may match a Registry-held record for a ‘hip’ on all parameters except procedure type. The Registry would regard the Registry data to be correct in this instance as the Registry record contains details of the prostheses implanted. Other errors may be resolved by contacting hospitals for clarification. Most commonly, this may include a reassessment of procedure codes or admission period.

In the 2019/20 financial year, the Registry received 3,115 more hip, knee and shoulder procedures than were provided in the various health department data files.

The validation process identifies procedures not submitted to the Registry. As in previous years, the majority of these procedures have an ICD10 code for hemiarthroplasty of the femur. Sufficient information is provided in the state unit record data to enable the Registry to request hospitals to provide forms for unreported procedures.

The Registry is able to obtain over 97.3% of joint replacement procedures undertaken in Australia. On initial submission of forms from participating hospitals, the Registry’s capture rate is 94.3%. Following verification against health department data, checking of unmatched data and subsequent retrieval of unreported procedures, the Registry is able to obtain an almost complete dataset relating to hip, knee and shoulder replacement in Australia.
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