

020609-03

Information Governance

Minutes of the Fifth Database Monitoring Sub-Group (DMSG)

Friday 12 September 2008 starting at 10:00am

Skipton House, Elephant and Castle, London

Members Present:
Dr Patrick Coyle
Dr Ian Goodman
Mr Manny Devaux
Ms Ros Levenson
Mr Terence Wiseman

In attendance:
Susan Milner (IC)
Claire Thomson (IC)
Chris Roebuck (HES rep)
Philip Nicholson
Lorraine Cole (IC Southport)
Melanie Kingston
Natasha Dunkley
Karen Thomson

1. Welcome and Apologies.	[AG/73/1]
2. Minutes of the last meeting.	[AG/73/2]
The minutes were agreed to be a true record.	
3. Matters Arising.	[AG/73/3]
AG/71/4/a Need to check if the PIAG approval [2-07(i)/2004) allows them to collect DoB. This needs to go back to PIAG as DoB not included in original application. ACTION: Extension to PIAG approval required.	

<p>Security reviews of applications – Mike Farrell is now responsible for the security reviews of applications. Members agreed to invite him to the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: Mike Farrell to be invited to attend next meeting.</p>		
4. Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) Business		[AG/73/4]
<p>[AG/73/4/a] Application for HES extract from the Information Centre – Central Cardiac Audit Database</p> <p>Data required: to allow linkage to clinical audit database (MINAP) to assess case ascertainment rates by NHS trust in England.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NHS Number ▪ DOB ▪ Postcode ▪ Local patient identifier ▪ Data years: 2003 - 2007 ▪ Data retention: 3 years ▪ DOD – also requested <p>IC/NCASP has Section 60 exemption (PIAG Ref: 2-08(b)2003)</p> <p>The Application was approved subject to clarification for the need to retain data for 3 years.</p> <p>ACTION: Applicant to be informed of the Group's decision.</p> <p>[AG/73/4/b] Application for HES extract from the Information Centre – NCASP Diabetes audit.</p> <p>Data requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NHS Number - to link complications data to data already held about patients who have diabetes. <p>Data years: 2003-08 Data retention: 6 months</p> <p>This audit has Section 60 exemption under PIAG ref. 2-08(b)2003</p> <p>The Advisory Group approved the application.</p> <p>Action: Applicant to be informed of the Group's decision.</p>		

The Group also agreed that any NCASP approved audits that already have PIAG approval are not required to obtain DMSG approval in addition.

[AG/73/4/c] Request from the Health & Social Care Information Centre (NHS IC) for agreement to enable Consultant access to data containing the Consultant Code field for the Consultant Activity Log Project

This was discussed at the June meeting and members requested further information. The Information Centre provided a paper explaining the request in more detail.

The paper confirmed that only aggregated hospital data would be used. Consultants would be able to see the names of other consultants within the hospital but not from different hospitals. There would also be robust access controls to confirm the identity of staff logging on. (Confirmation via an NHS net email address)

The IC noted that the Royal College of Physicians previously had SCAG approval to carry out similar work.

The application was approved, however the IC must inform the Group if there are any significant changes to the way this work is carried out.

ACTION: Applicant to be informed of the Group's decision.

[AG/73/4/d] Application for an extract of NSTS data from the Centre for Health Economics (CHE) at York University for linkage between NSTS and HES data

This application was considered as a joint request for HES and NSTS data access.

The NSTS and HES datasets will be processed and linked by CHE using the pseudonymised encrypted identifier, costing episodes and attaching socio-economic and supply variables on the basis of patient Lower Super Output Area and practice. A copy of the analysis will then be provided for Health Dialog and Nuffield Trust. The three organisations will then analyse the data set to examine various aspects of the determinants of individual expenditure and practice budgets.

Individual HES records will be used to link histories of patients in practices to predict individual level expenditure on hospital inpatient and outpatient services to inform the setting of appropriate budgets for practices.

PIAG approval is required as they are requesting identifiable data. Application referred to next PIAG meeting,

ACTION: Applicant to be informed of the Group's decision.

[AG/73/4/e] Request to use data from Attribution Data Set (ADS) for GP Practice Competition Analysis to assess the level of competition that

<p>exists between GP Practices</p> <p>Update request is from Department of Health for authorisation for Paul Dixon (University of York) to use data from the Attribution Dataset to provide summary statistics which give an indication of the geographical areas from which GP practices draw their patients. This will be calculated by using the registered list of patients and calculating the distances patients live from the practice.</p> <p>This request included full postcode which is considered identifiable and therefore requires PIAG approval</p> <p>ACTION: Applicant to be informed of the Group's decision.</p> <p>[AG/73/4/f] Sensitive HES fields.</p> <p>The Group considered a paper from the IC regarding sensitive HES fields. This explained the actual information contained within each field in more detail. Members considered every field and whether or not it should be considered sensitive or identifiable.</p> <p>A more detailed paper of the outcome of discussions will be prepared for the February meeting.</p> <p>[AG/73/4/g] Application for HES extract from South West Public Health Observatory.</p> <p>Members considered this new application. The applicant believed that the work could be carried out under the Cancer Registries PIAG approval and therefore did not require any extra PIAG approval. However the Group noted that this does not fall under the existing Cancer Regulations as they were requesting data about co-morbidities.</p> <p>The Group did not approve the request. Further clarification was required regarding-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What information about co-morbidities would be collected. • What they are going to do with the information <p>This could be dealt with as an extension to the existing PIAG approval however further clarification was required.</p> <p>ACTION: Applicant to be informed of the Group's decision.</p>		
<p>5. NSTS Business</p>	<p>[AG/73/5]</p>	
<p>[1] UK GRID – Application for batch tracing. The Researchers will prepare the information in order to re-consent study participants. Consultants will forward the letter to participants. The application was approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Applicant to be informed of the Group's decision.</p> <p>NSTS Any Other Business – PN gave an update on the closure of NSTS. He</p>		

<p>advised that the contract was due to end at the end of March 2009. He also advised that the new reporting function would be at the testing phase soon.</p> <p>PN gave his apologies for the next November meeting.</p>		
6. NHSCR Applications	[AG/73/6]	
<p>MR1130 – Hb concentrations in acute coronary syndrome – The Advisory Group considered this application which is an update of a previously approved PIAG application. The researcher now wishes to obtain mortality data, long term outcomes (including mortality) were not considered originally. The Group approved the request. ACTION: Secretariat to inform applicant of the outcome.</p> <p>MR1132 – OPERA – An application for flagging. New study involving elderly patients in nursing homes. The Group had concerns with the application. The consent form provided did not mention flagging or the flow of information to the Information Centre. Furthermore there were concerns with some of the language in the form, Members were generally supportive of the research, however required clarification of the consent issues before any approval could be given. ACTION: Secretariat to inform applicant of outcome.</p>		
7. Any other business	[AG/73/7]	
<p>DMSG section on PIAG website – KT gave an update explaining that DMSG now had a dedicated section on the PIAG website, giving information about the new application process. Previous meeting agendas and minutes are also included. Members</p>		
8. Date of next meetings	[AG/73/7]	
<p>To be confirmed. Potential dates to be circulated at the meeting</p> <p>ACTION: Secretariat to book meeting rooms</p>	C/F	MK