National Ophthalmology Database (NOD) Audit Data Access Policy

Data Access Policy for the National Ophthalmology Database (NOD) Audit

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) NOD Audit collects data on cataract surgery and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) procedures performed in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Guernsey. It aims to drive improvement in the quality of care for patients undergoing cataract surgery by identifying variations in access to, and outcomes of cataract surgery, as well as reporting variation in AMD treatment outcomes and care processes, highlighting best practice and identifying areas of possible concern.

The RCOphth is the data controller and its sub-contractors act as the data processors. The data controller has authority over the data and all aspects of its use, including the release of data for purposes other than the immediate requirements of the audits, and is responsible for assuring appropriate use of the data.

This document details the application procedure for the release of data held by the NOD Audit. Applicants who wish to use these data for research or audit purposes must complete and submit a Data Access Request form to the RCOphth at noa.project@rcophth.ac.uk. In most cases, a preliminary discussion with the NOD audit team will be helpful prior to submission of an application. Initial contact should be made by contacting: noa.project@rcophth.ac.uk. A range of background information can be accessed at https://www.nodaudit.org.uk.

The Data Access Request form is available on request from the RCOphth NOD team via email at noa.project@rcophth.ac.uk.

On receipt of the completed form, each application will be reviewed by the RCOphth NOD Data Release Advisory Group against the following criteria:

- Does the RCOphth NOD hold the requested data?
- Is the proposed use of the data clinically appropriate?
- Is the proposed use of the data methodologically sound?
- Does the application satisfy the requirements of the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018?
- Are the necessary legal and ethical permissions and security arrangements in place?

The RCOphth NOD Data Release Advisory Group may request that the application be revised and following satisfactory revisions the application will be considered for approval. A statement will be required confirming Ethical Approval if research or demonstrating exemption (see http://www.hra.nhs.uk/resources/before-you-apply/is-it-research/).

Applicants should be aware that a cost recovery fee will be charged to compensate NOD for the time spent by NOD staff on processing the application and performing any agreed analyses. The fee is based on the complexity of the data requested and the proposed use of the data. Where data requests include or involve commercial or potential commercial applications or uses, a full economic costs approach will be adopted. Any work involved would need to be fitted into existing NOD work schedules which may result in delays during busy times.

The RCOphth NOD will confirm receipt of the request and undertake an initial review of each application within six weeks of final submission.

The applicant will be informed of the decision of the NOD Data Release Advisory Group once their application has been processed. If the application is successful, the RCOphth will discuss the data transfer process, payment of fees and delivery timeframes with the applicant.