

UKMED: options for researchers including their own datasets in research extracts

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Arrangements for linking your own data to UKMED

- 1** If you would like to use UKMED held data in your study together with data you already hold, it may be possible, if you submit a proposal to the research subgroup and follow the process described here - http://www.ukmed.ac.uk/documents/UKMED_research_process.pdf
- 2** Your data would be included in UKMED and made available with the requested data already held within UKMED. It would therefore be included in the Data Dictionary and available to other applicants in later rounds of research.
- 3** We describe below how this could work.

Step 1 – determining if it is permissible under the Data Protection Act to include your data in UKMED

- 4** As the Data Controller for UKMED the GMC has responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Act. The GMC's Information Governance Team will need to review the privacy statement shown to your data subjects to determine if it permits sharing data into UKMED. We will need to assess any potential restrictions on your sharing data with us i.e. we will only accept third party data where there are no legal barriers to us receiving it.
- 5** If you haven't commenced collecting data for your study yet, we would recommend the following is included in your privacy notice:

5.1 *Make it clear that identifiable data will be used for research*

5.2 *Indicate that identifiable data may be shared with third parties to undertake the research*

- 6** Note that the UKMED blanket exemption* from obtaining ethical approval would not apply in this instance and researchers would need to obtain this from their local committee.

Step 2- determining if the linkage is possible and will yield enough cases with linked data

- 7** Table 1 lists identifiers suitable for linking held within UKMED

Identifier	Details
Universities own student number – only unique when used in conjunction with the medical school name	https://www.hesa.ac.uk/component/studrec/show_file/14054/e%5E%5EOWNSTU.html
UCAS person ID	https://www.hesa.ac.uk/component/studrec/show_file/10051/a%5E%5EUCASPERID.html
GMC Reference Number	http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/information_for_doctors/doctors_registration_number.asp#ref_no
HESA ID	https://www.hesa.ac.uk/component/studrec/show_file/14054/e%5E%5EHUSID.html

- 8** To validate the link it would be helpful if First names, Family name and date of birth are included.
- 9** If the linkage is permissible and possible the existing UKMED research process is followed. Once the Research sub-group has approved the study, you will be asked to submit your data via GMC Connect for inclusion in your research extract together with the UKMED held data.

* http://www.ukmed.ac.uk/documents/UKMED_research_projects_ethics_exemption.pdf

- 10** Following release of your extract the UKMED data dictionary will be updated to include the data submitted. It will then be possible for other researchers to request it for their studies.

Costs

- 11** The GMC will need to recover its costs for this work. A precise quote can be provided on request for inclusion in any funding application. Please note, matching may prove difficult in some cases due to the quality of data being supplied and it may take us longer to undertake this exercise.