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## Quality Research and Health IT Dept. – National Center – Quality Program Research Publications

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### “Hospital Data referencing GWTG for Research or Public Display”

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Overview/Purpose: American Heart Association | American Stroke Association® (AHA) Get With The Guidelines® (GWTG) participating hospitals can run reports, view their own data as well as benchmark data for their internal quality improvement efforts using the Patient Management Tool™ (PMT). These hospitals and AHA Staff may also want to analyze and publish their hospital level data at conferences, in journals or on websites.

AHA has a responsibility to make sure that hospital level research publications are not confused with national level GWTG research that includes all sites and has gone through rigorous statistical analysis and is used to drive national guidelines and policy statements.

Authority: AHA National Quality Research Staff currently Beckie Friesenhahn

Responsibility: Get With The Guidelines® (GWTG) participating hospitals, AHA Affiliate Field Staff (Field Staff), AHA National Quality Research Staff (AHA National), GWTG Volunteer Leadership

AHA Affiliate Field Staff are the facilitators between the hospitals and AHA National Center Quality Research Staff and should understand and share requirements with hospitals as well as being the interface with AHA National Center Staff.

Scope: This applies to all “Hospital Level Quality Data” which includes any external facing information such as documents or websites (physical or electronic) that include the hospital level public display of data or publication in any format, abstracts, manuscripts, websites, etc., that mention GWTG.

Policy:

1. National aggregate benchmark data, usually obtained from the PMT, may not be used as comparative data in any published format, including abstracts, manuscripts, webpages, etc.
2. Abstracts, Manuscripts, Webpages, etc. that use more than single center hospital level data, such as state or regional, must get approval from the other hospitals before using their data.
3. A GWTG hospital is free to share their own Hospital Level Quality Data as they wish excluding patient level data, which is never allowed in any analysis.
4. If the Abstract or Manuscript mentions GWTG in any way, then review and approval by AHA National and GWTG Volunteer Leadership is required prior to submission to conference or journal.
5. If a Website includes Hospital Level Quality Data and mentions GWTG, a copy of the URL should be forwarded to AHA National.
6. All documentation requirements, disclosures and authorship must be included on any documentation or websites.
7. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval must be in place.

Procedures:

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#### 1) Communications

- a) Field Staff support GWTG at the hospital level and should familiarize themselves with this internal AHA document
- b) Hospitals should reference the “GWTG Hospital Data & Research Guide” – currently in development
- c) Field Staff will serve as the facilitator between the hospitals and AHA National for any questions or reviews.
- d) If an email request for information or review is received by AHA National, the response will include copying the appropriate Field Staff, who can offer guidance to the hospital.
- e) If an Abstract, Manuscript or other intended published document mentions GWTG in any way, then review and approval by AHA National is required prior to submission to conference or journal, etc.
- f) Field Staff should review the document for “Documentation requirements” compliance before submission to AHA National for review.
- g) If a Website includes Hospital Level Quality Data and mentions GWTG, a copy of the URL should be forwarded to AHA National.
- h) This document should also be posted on the PMT site documents section and a hyperlink from the disclaimer section of the PMT site.

#### 2) AHA National - Abstract/Manuscript Review:

- a) If an Abstract or Manuscript mentions GWTG, it requires AHA National review and approval before submission to a conference or journal.
- b) Before submitting for review, Field Staff should review document to ensure overall requirements have been met.
- c) If an email review request is received by AHA National, the response will include copying the appropriate Field Staff, who can offer guidance to the hospital.
- d) Field Staff can email Review Request to [QualityResearch@Heart.org](mailto:QualityResearch@Heart.org).
- e) Please plan for the 14-day turnaround to receive your review feedback.
- f) AHA National will secure review from Program Clinical Workgroup Chair, Science Subcommittee Chair and Steering Committee Chair.
- g) Review will include appropriate use of GWTG Data including study design and analysis, conformity to AHA scientific standards, adequate representation of program and program acknowledgement, data source disclosures, marketing review of trademark and symbols, correct template use.
- h) Feedback will also include a decision of approved, declined or revise.
- i) Abstract to Conference or Manuscript to Journal may not be submitted without approval.

#### 3) Using other hospitals data

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- a) Hospitals may view many different groups of data in the PMT to assist them in their quality improvement efforts.
  - b) Sometimes hospitals may want to publish their analyzed hospital data combined or compared with other hospitals data such as state or regional but before doing must get approval from the other hospitals before using their data. (Any Benchmark needs to include at least 6 hospitals)
  - c) Hospitals must keep their own records showing permission was received.
  - d) NOTE: patient level data is never allowed in any analysis
  - e) Lack of identification does not allow for use of data since each hospital owns their data and must give permission for its use.
  - f) If GWTG is mentioned, AHA National review is required.
- 4) Comparative data use
- a) A GWTG hospital is free to share its own hospital level quality data as it wishes.
  - b) GWTG National Program Level Aggregate Benchmark Data (GWTG National Level Data) which is usually called “All Hospitals” in the PMT, may not be published in any format or used as comparison data. This GWTG National Level Data should be used for internal comparisons for purposes of quality improvement not publication.
    - i) AHA has a responsibility to make sure that hospital level papers are not confused with national level GWTG research that includes all sites and has gone through rigorous statistical analysis and is used to drive guidelines and policy statements
  - c) Hospitals may compare their data to:
    - i) Their own historical performance.
    - ii) Other hospitals (local, state or regional) with that hospitals permission.
    - iii) Any published research such as the [AHA Statistical Update – Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics](#) which is published annually, and more current years can be found via internet search.
    - iv) Published manuscripts including [GWTG National Level Research published manuscripts](#).
- 5) Documentation requirements:
- a) These overall requirements can serve as a reminder of the above but also includes other important requirements.
  - b) Before submitting for review, these requirements should be reviewed for compliance and update before review submission
  - c) Overall Requirements:
    - i) Title and Author Block are on document.
    - ii) Comparative Data does not include national level aggregate data comparisons.
    - iii) Do not use general GWTG program name in title as may be interpreted that national level data was used.
    - iv) Ensure good description of what hospitals or groups are part of the study

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- v) If more than single hospital included in study, ensure corresponding author has permission from other hospitals
  - vi) Ensure proper use of GWTG and PMT and trademark symbols
    - (1) When the following first appear in the document, they must be spelled out like this:
      - (a) Get With The Guidelines® (GWTG) / Patient Management Tool™ (PMT)
      - (b) After first use, you may use GWTG and PMT throughout the document
  - vii) Include Disclosure statement “This work represents the authors’ independent analysis of local or multicenter data gathered using the AHA Get With The Guidelines® (GWTG) Patient Management Tool but is not an analysis of the national GWTG dataset and does not represent findings from the AHA GWTG National Program”.
    - (1) Include on Abstract, Poster/PPT for conference, in methods section of manuscripts and in appropriate place on websites that display data.
- 6) After Acceptance
- a) Accepted to Conference
    - i) Approved abstracts accepted to conference will use their own hospital appropriate poster or PPT template and may include the AHA/ASA Logo (not GWTG) somewhere on the document.
    - ii) The Logo can be requested via [QualityResearch@Heart.org](mailto:QualityResearch@Heart.org)
    - iii) Ensure content of poster or PPT match the reviewed/approved/accepted abstract content.
    - iv) Final poster or PPT must meet “Overall requirements for publications”
    - v) Final Poster or PPT will need to go through same “AHA National Review process” as the abstract with 5-day turnaround.
  - b) Accepted to Journal
    - i) Notify AHA National Center Quality Research Staff at [QualityResearch@Heart.org](mailto:QualityResearch@Heart.org) of acceptance and include accepted copy of manuscript
    - ii) Notify again when manuscript goes online with journal and send final PDF of paper
- 7) AHA permissions & authorship
- a) AHA Staff should assist in facilitating hospital level research and have hospital clinical volunteers lead.
  - b) AHA Staff does currently have permission from the hospitals (per UPA and PHA hospital agreements) to use and disclose GWTG data for legitimate research purposes without additional hospital consent but should inform and include hospitals when this occurs.
  - c) AHA Staff can serve as co-authors if meet authorship requirements. AHA staff does not need to be co-author on all hospital level papers unless they meet criteria for authorship.
  - d) Authorship credit should be based on meeting all three conditions:

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- 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
  - 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
  - 3) final approval of the version to be published.
- e) The order of authorship on the byline should be a joint decision of the co-authors.

#### 8) Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval

- a) Authors wishing to use data from individual hospitals, groups of hospitals, regions, or states for research purposes are solely responsible for obtaining local IRB approval though full review or obtaining an exemption from their IRB.
  - i) Note: Institutional Review Board approval of analyses of national GWTG data at the GWTG Biostatistical Core Center for research purposes has been obtained.

References: Unified Participation Agreement (UPA), Participating Hospital Agreement (PHA), GWTG Hospital Data & Research Guide

Contacts: AHA National Center Quality Research Staff

[Beckie.Friesenhahn@Heart.org](mailto:Beckie.Friesenhahn@Heart.org) – supports overall publications, GWTG HF, Stroke, Hospital Level publications  
[Sofie.Tai@Heart.org](mailto:Sofie.Tai@Heart.org) – supports Resus, AFib, Mission: Lifeline, and CAD  
[Joseph.Williams@heart.org](mailto:Joseph.Williams@heart.org) – supports AHA PMT

Additional Information: [Scientific Publications Homepage](#)

External: Posted on PMT site under Resources, AHA Field Staff Share Point Site, AHA Hospital Level Data and Research Website

#### Modification History:

Revision Number	Description of Modification	Who	Date of Revision
1	Approved for distribution	Beckie Friesenhahn	5/3/18
2	Added IRB Requirement. to policy and details in section 8	Beckie Friesenhahn	7/24/18
3	Added more clarification that his applies to websites too	Beckie Friesenhahn	2/21/19