

Guidelines for access to research data from Cardiovascular Disease in Norway 1994-2009 (CVDNOR)

1. Background

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that data collected will be utilized in the best possible way and that all interests are protected.

2. Requirements for applicants

Project leaders with research expertise and employed at institutions with research expertise can apply for access to research data from CVDNOR. The researcher must agree to the terms stated in these guidelines.

3. The application

The application shall contain a project description including the objectives/research questions that will form the basis of publications. Through the project description the project leader must demonstrate that the project is scientifically relevant and that research data from CVDNOR are suited to examine the posed questions.

4. Criteria for access to data and analysis rights

The following criteria apply:

4.1 Relevance

The project must be scientifically well-founded and appropriate to examine within the CVDNOR project.

4.2 Professional capacity

The applicant and his/her team must have the expertise and capacity to analyze and publish data, within a reasonable time.

4.3 Consideration of ongoing projects

The project must not be in conflict with other approved projects or publication plans.

5. Publication

It is a condition for access to research data that the results will be made available to the public. This should preferably be done through publication of scientific articles, but publication in the form of reports, monographs, or submission of abstracts on research conferences may also be relevant.

6. Time limit

The project leader has the right to use the allocated data in a predefined time period. Analysis rights should normally be limited to those that can be realized within the given time frame. This will normally be three years, but other periods can be agreed upon.

7. Co-authorship

The rules set by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, version October 2004) must be adhered to.

8. The display of manuscripts for publication selection

All manuscripts must be submitted to the CVDNOR's Project Director before being submitted for publication. The purpose is to ensure that all published results from CVDNOR are in accordance with assigned rights with respect to the use of variables and co-authorship, as well as to ensure that CVDNOR is described appropriately. This arrangement shall not delay the publication process unnecessarily.

9. Reference to CVDNOR

It must be stated in all publications that the data come from CVDNOR. This should be made visible in the method section and, if possible, should also be stated in the title of the publication; e.g.: "The association between..... A CVDNOR Project".

It must be stated in acknowledgments: The authors thank Tomislav Dimoski at the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for Health Services, Oslo, Norway for his contribution by developing software necessary for obtaining data from Norwegian hospitals, conducting the data collection and quality assurance of data in this project.

10. Storage and use of CVDNOR data

CVDNOR data analyses shall be conducted on a secure server at the University of Bergen. No datafiles are to be exported. The researcher is not allowed to access data sources other than those necessary and approved for his/her project.

CVDNOR data shall only be used in accordance with the approved project description. If the project leader wishes to examine research questions beyond those included in the original project description, this must be approved by CVDNOR management.

My digital signature indicates that I agree to comply with the above stated provisions.