

Own the Bone™ and Your Institutional Review Board

Own the Bone™ is a quality improvement program developed and managed by the American Orthopaedic Association (AOA).

Participating sites are responsible for obtaining any internal approvals necessary for participation in the program, including Institutional Review Board (“IRB”) approval or waiver, as may be required under the policies and procedures of the participating institution.

Two points about the program are relevant to its distinction as a quality improvement program:

1. The AOA collects only a “limited data set” as defined in HIPAA (45 CFR 164.514(e) (1). As a result, a data use agreement is the only requirement between the hospital and AOA. HIPAA data use agreement provisions are included in the Own the Bone Participating Site Agreement at Section 3b.
2. Because a limited data set excludes certain information, individual patients whose data is submitted cannot be identified. Program benchmarking reports reflect aggregated data and present no individual patient data.

As defined by federal law governing protection of human subjects at 45 CFR 46.102, the Own the Bone program does not meet the definition of a research study due to the limited data set collected and the lack of patient identifiers.

If you have any questions about the program protocol and HIPAA data use provisions, please contact Sarah Murphy, Senior Program Manager at murphy@aoassn.org or at 847.318 7361.