Appendix 1

This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed. It is posted as supplied by the authors.

Appendix 1.

Diagram: Data linkage and data verification process

16,046,272 de-identifying records received from CHeReL after the vertical linkage with unique person key including 497 health care facilities in NSW 2002-09

12,597 duplicates removed as well as 5 records were deemed invalid due to out of range of admission and separation dates

6,812,532 records removed from private and other health care facilities such as residential care facilities

9,221,138 from 82 public acute hospitals in NSW

9,221,138 records retained after one-to-one linkage to RBDM database provided by the CHeReL