

Australia and New Zealand Transplant
& Cellular Therapies Registry
(ANZTCT Registry, formerly ABMTRR)

Principal Investigator: Professor Nada Hamad

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Synopsis

Protocol title: Australia and New Zealand Transplant & Cellular Therapies Registry (ANZTCT Registry, formerly ABMTRR)

Protocol version: 4.4

Investigators

The ANZTCT Registry was previously operated by St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Limited (SVHS), with ANZTCT responsible for the scientific direction of the registry. The ANZTCT Registry is now fully operated under ANZTCT through a Commonwealth funding contract.

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Summary

Protocol title:	Australia and New Zealand Transplant & Cellular Therapies Registry (ANZTCT Registry, formerly ABMTRR)
Protocol version:	4.4
Purpose	<p>To collect baseline and outcome data relating to all bone marrow, peripheral blood and cord blood haemopoietic stem cell transplants and other cell therapies performed throughout Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>To collect data to monitor clinical practice and inform best practice guidelines.</p> <p>To provide data to clinicians and researchers for studies involving specific subsets of patients, or to determine the feasibility of such studies.</p> <p>To provide data to clinicians to inform patient care.</p> <p>To provide data to health administrators for resource planning and quality assurance purposes.</p> <p>To participate in local and international data collections by contributing summary and outcome data to enhance the global knowledge base for these types of transplants.</p> <p>To routinely provide systematic benchmarking data to contributing centres for safety and quality audits and to assist with accreditation requirements.</p>
Design	Clinical registry
Registry population	All patients in Australia and New Zealand receiving haemopoietic stem cell transplants or other cell therapies such as CAR-T. The database currently holds information on more than 51,000 transplants and 1,000 cell therapy infusions.
Data custodians	Prof Nada Hamad (chair of ANZTCT Registry Committee) Ms Leonie Wilcox (ANZTCT Registry Executive Director)
Data collection	Patient data may be submitted to the ANZTCT Registry by contributing centres either by emailing paper forms or entering directly into the online database systems.
Duration	Data collection commenced in 1992 and data will be stored indefinitely. Long term information is important to monitor the safety and efficacy of these procedures.

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1. Background

1.1. History

Haemopoietic stem cell transplants are used to treat a range of both haematological and non-haematological malignancies and other serious conditions in adults and children. The stem cells may come from bone marrow, peripheral blood or cord blood. Transplants can be autologous, when the patient's own stem cells are harvested and then returned after high-dose conditioning chemotherapy, or allogeneic, when the stem cells are sourced from a donor. Allogeneic donors may be related to the patient, such as a sibling or parent, or unrelated, where the donors are sourced from donor registries and cord blood banks worldwide. In line with overseas registries, the ANZTCT Registry now also collects information from patients receiving other cell therapies.

The ABMTRR (now ANZTCT Registry) was established in 1992 to record details of bone marrow, peripheral blood and later cord blood haemopoietic stem cell transplants performed in Australia. New Zealand began contributing data in 1998. Initially the registry was fully funded by the Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation. From 2001 to 2014, the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) subsidised a collection of more detailed information for unrelated donor transplants. NSW Health contributed to the part time salary of a statistician from 2003-2010. From July 2010-2024 the registry received operational funding from Australian governments through the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health by means of funding arrangements between St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Limited (SVHS) and the ABMDR).

The ANZTCT Registry is now fully operated by ANZTCT, as contracted by ABMDR, and is located at 1/65 Campbell St Surry Hills NSW 2010.

1.2. Rationale

ANZTCT Registry data are used for clinical, administrative and research purposes.

Collaboration and interaction between transplant units has led to a greater understanding of the transplant procedure and its related complications and this has led to improved recipient outcomes. Treatment decisions may be guided and supported by registry data.

The ANZTCT Registry is able to provide historical time series to be used for projections and planning of resource allocation.

The ANZTCT Registry database is used as a basis for more detailed research studies or to ascertain the feasibility of such studies.

Globally, stem cell transplants and cell therapies are recorded and followed up by national and international registries. Data sharing mechanisms are being developed that will streamline reporting processes between registries.

The outcome data are used to monitor the safety and efficacy of these procedures and may be shared with governmental agencies, relevant local and international organisations (eg Stem Cell Donors Australia, AusCord, Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (WBMT), in accordance with this protocol, as permitted by relevant privacy or data protection regulations and/or with specific approval from the contributing hospital.

2. Purpose

Data is collected by the ANZTCT Registry:

- To monitor haemopoietic stem cell transplant and other cell therapy activity and outcomes in Australia and New Zealand.
- To collect data to monitor clinical practice and inform best practice guidelines.

- To provide data to clinicians and researchers for studies involving specific subsets of patients, or to determine the feasibility of such studies.
- To provide data to clinicians to inform patient care.
- To provide data to health administrators and associated organisations for resource planning and quality assurance purposes.
- To participate in local and international data collections by contributing summary and outcome data to enhance the global knowledge base for these types of procedures.
- To collaborate with disease registries to help determine who is likely to benefit most from these procedures.
- To routinely provide systematic benchmarking data to contributing centres for safety and quality audits and to assist with accreditation requirements.

3.Design

3.1. Participant population

Data from every patient who undergoes autologous or allogeneic haemopoietic stem cell transplant in Australia and New Zealand will be collected and contributed to the ANZTCT Registry. Patients undergoing other cell therapies can also be included.

3.2. Participating centres

Data have been or are currently collected from the following centres. For those centres no longer performing these procedures, clinicians may still provide follow up data for patients,

New South Wales

Children's Hospital at Westmead
 Concord Repatriation and General Hospital
 Gosford Hospital
 John Hunter Children's Hospital
 Liverpool Hospital
 Nepean Hospital
 Newcastle Mater Hospital
 Prince of Wales Hospital
 Royal North Shore Hospital
 Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
 St George Hospital
 St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
 Sydney Adventist Hospital
 Sydney Children's Hospital
 Westmead Hospital
 Wollongong Hospital

Queensland

Brisbane Private Hospital
 Gold Coast University Hospital
 Greenslopes Private Hospital
 Mater Hospital Brisbane
 Mater Private Hospital Brisbane
 Mater Misericordiae Public Hospital
 Queensland Children's Hospital
 Princess Alexandra Hospital
 Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
 Sunshine Coast University Hospital
 The Townsville Hospital

Wesley Private Hospital

Victoria

Alfred Hospital
Austin Hospital
Box Hill Hospital
Epworth HealthCare
Geelong Hospital
Monash Health
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne
Royal Melbourne Hospital
St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne

South Australia

Adelaide Cancer Centre
Flinders Medical Centre
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Royal Adelaide Hospital
Women and Children's Hospital

Western Australia

Fiona Stanley Hospital
Fremantle Hospital
Perth Children's Hospital
Royal Perth Hospital
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

Tasmania

Royal Hobart Hospital

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra Hospital

New Zealand

Auckland City Hospital
Christchurch Hospital
Palmerston North Hospital
Starship Hospital
Waikato Hospital
Wellington Hospital

3.3. Duration

Both registration and outcome data are required on an ongoing basis. The transplant and cell therapy field continues to evolve so it is necessary to monitor the safety and efficacy of various regimens across all patient and disease groups. As survival rates improve it is becoming increasingly important to monitor patients in the long term for possible late effects.

4. Population

Data from all patients in Australia and New Zealand receiving autologous or allogeneic haemopoietic stem cell transplants will be collected and contributed to the ANZTCT Registry. Patients undergoing other cell therapies can also be included. Data from patients receiving commercial CAR-T products in Australia will be monitored by

ANZTCT Registry as per the MSAC directive on approval of reimbursement of the commercial products. These data will also be used to prepare reports for the TGA in order for the associated commercial entities to meet their regulatory requirements. Data collected will be used as a means of validating ascertainment and for safety and quality monitoring purposes, and where patients have provided their direct consent their data will also be used for other consented purposes such as research and contribution to other collections. This process aligns with the Australian Privacy Principles and NHMRC Guidelines.

5. Procedure Outline

5.1. Data collection procedure

Transplant data are now entered directly by staff at the contributing centre into the online database ASTRO (Australasian Stem cell Transplant Registry Online). Cell therapy data are currently collected in a separate REDCap repository. Registered users are provided with password access to these systems to enter patient data or access data from their own centre. Data collection forms and explanatory notes are also available from the ANZTCT Registry website.

Registration data are collected at the time of the procedure. A sufficient amount of identifying information is collected to allow for follow up data to be recorded, as per Operating Principles and Technical Standards for Australian Clinical Quality Registries. The demographic data collected are name codes (optional for the contributing centre, maximum is 4 letters of the surname and 2 letters of the first name, depending on hospital preference), sex, date of birth, and postcode of usual residence. The procedure data include diagnosis, date and type of procedure, donor relation, HLA matching information, preparatory treatments and cell doses.

Data should be collected from all patients. However, if a patient does not provide direct consent to participate in the ANZTCT Registry, registration information may exclude any name details and actual date of birth, instead generalizing to month and year. It is necessary to collect this information to ensure the epidemiological integrity of the database and to minimise bias in benchmarking analyses. For patients who have not consented for participation in the ANZTCT Registry, data use will be limited to safety and quality monitoring activities and will not be used for participation in other data collections, projects or research.

Follow up information is collected from all patients and includes disease response, engraftment, complications such as graft vs host disease or infections, disease relapse and survival. This information is used to enable benchmarking and for safety and quality purposes. Where consent was provided from the patient, data may also be used for research or other consented purposes. This information may be provided at the time an event occurs, or in response to update requests from the ANZTCT Registry to contributing centres. Patients may be monitored for their entire lives in the case of stem cell transplant or for shorter periods depending on the type of cell therapy administered. As a guide, the European registry (EBMT) requests annual follow up for 10 years post transplant, second yearly follow up from 10-20 years and five yearly follow up thereafter. It is now recognized that there are significant long term complications of bone marrow transplantation. Medium and long term effects of other cell therapies will also be monitored.

The online database system for transplant is hosted offsite, with appropriate security and backup systems. A more detailed description of the database security is provided in Appendix 2. Data downloaded for analysis are securely stored in the ANZTCT SharePoint Document Library, accessible only to ANZTCT Registry staff. REDCap is currently used for data management of cell therapy data and other projects, with access controlled by ANZTCT Registry personnel.

Many Australian and New Zealand hospitals contribute transplant and cell therapy data to the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) in the US, as well as to the ANZTCT Registry. There is considerable overlap between these collections, resulting in duplicate data entry burden. Subject to obtaining the necessary approval from the contributing centre, the ANZTCT Registry may collect data from the CIBMTR via a web portal.

5.2. Risks

There are no physical risks to the patients as the registry is for data collection only, i.e. observational not interventional.

The only risk to participants is through an unintended and unauthorized disclosure of their information. However, the ANZTCT Registry is subject to the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) in relation to the handling and security of personal information. The ANZTCT Registry has implemented the various security measures set out in Appendix 2 to satisfy its obligations for ensuring the security of personal information.

Any information that is disclosed by the ANZTCT Registry will be either de-identified or subject to HREC approval and/or strict confidentiality obligations to protect patient privacy.

5.3. Benefits

There is no direct individual patient benefit. Benefits to the community include gains in knowledge, insight and understanding so that future patients receive the best and most appropriate treatments. Monitoring of outcomes also enables quality benchmarking processes and prioritisation of resource allocation. In the case of other novel cellular therapies, such as CAR-T, monitoring by the registry is important to assess long term safety and efficacy.

5.4. Informed Consent

An appropriately qualified or experienced person will explain the ANZTCT Registry data collection to a patient who presents at the contributing centre for relevant treatment. This is likely to be the treating clinician or BMT coordinator. The patient will be provided an Information and Consent Form (recommended template at Appendix A) and given a reasonable opportunity to consider whether or not to provide their direct consent for participation in the ANZTCT Registry.

Patients will be advised that some data will be collected by the ANZTCT Registry and their outcomes monitored for safety and quality purposes, regardless of whether or not they provide their direct consent, but that they may elect whether or not to participate in any data sharing or research projects through the ANZTCT Registry.

A copy of the Patient Information Sheet and Consent Form should be stored in the patient's medical records at the contributing centre and they should be given a copy to keep.

By contributing data to the ANZTCT Registry, contributing centres are expected to ensure that appropriate processes have been followed for the contribution of that data.

5.5. Disclosure of data

In most cases, ANZTCT Registry data are disclosed to external parties only as aggregated summary statistics or reports, meaning that no individual patient can be identified. De-identified data may be provided to researchers for approved projects after formal consideration by the Registry Committee.

Where permitted under privacy regulations (including where necessary consent has been provided by the patient and approval has been obtained from a human research ethics committee), identifiable personal information may also be shared with other data registries in order to link data for administrative or scientific benefit.

For example, stem cell transplantation and other cell therapies are treatment options for a large number of malignant and non-malignant diseases, some of which have their own registries to collect comprehensive disease-specific information. By utilising all available information such as diagnostic details and response to various treatments, researchers may be able to identify characteristics of patients who are likely to respond best to transplant and cell therapies, and how these treatments should be managed to optimise outcomes. When possible, the associated disease registry id can be collected at transplant registration to enable de-identified linkage between registries. For cases where the disease registry id is not available at transplant registration, the minimum data required to identify the patients in each dataset would be used to link the data by the respective data registry custodians (eg month of birth, sex and date of diagnosis). Only de-identified data would then be provided to researchers for analysis. Registries where personal information may be shared currently include:

- National Blood Cancer Registry
- Myeloma and Related Diseases Registry
- Aplastic Anaemia Registry
- Lymphoma and Related Diseases Registry
- MSBase – Multiple Sclerosis Registry
- The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) Registry

Data may also be shared with sponsors or manufacturers of the relevant cell therapy as required, to enable them to meet their regulatory requirements under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1979* (Cth). Further details about the registry requirements for approved cell therapy products can be found on the Medical Services Advisory Committee website:

[Tisagenlecleucel \(CTL019\) for treatment of refractory CD19-positive leukaemia and lymphoma | Medical Services Advisory Committee](#)

[Tisagenlecleucel \(CTL019\) for treatment of relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma | Medical Services Advisory Committee](#)

[YESCARTA™ \(axicabtagene ciloleucel \[KTE-C19\]\) for the treatment of refractory or relapsed CD19-positive lymphoma | Medical Services Advisory Committee](#)

[Axicabtagene ciloleucel \(Yescarta®\) for relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma | Medical Services Advisory Committee](#)

[Axicabtagene ciloleucel therapy for patients with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma | Medical Services Advisory Committee](#)

[Brexucabtagene autoleucel for adult relapsed or refractory B-precursor acute lymphoblastic leukaemia | Medical Services Advisory Committee](#)

[Brexucabtagene autoleucel for relapsed or refractory mantle cell lymphoma | Medical Services Advisory Committee](#)

[Ciltacabtagene autoleucel, a B-cell maturation antigen-directed chimeric antigen receptor T cell to treat refractory or relapsed multiple myeloma | Medical Services Advisory Committee](#)

Disclosure of identified or identifiable patient information from the ANZTCT Registry would be assessed by the Registry Committee on a case-by-case basis and, where necessary, subject to approval from a human research ethics committee.

6. Storage and archiving of study documents

The consent forms and clinical review forms are kept in the patient files at the contributing centre under their own institutional guidelines. Registry documents and confidential clinical data (including legacy scanned forms and correspondence) are stored securely in a restricted-access ANZTCT Registry SharePoint Document Library. Content is backed up automatically through Microsoft 365's enterprise-grade cloud

infrastructure, which includes geo-redundant storage and versioning. REDCap (<https://www.project-redcap.org/>), hosted on a secure server, is also used for data management of cell therapy and other project data.

The online database is hosted on a secure server off site. Staff at the contributing centres will only have access to individual records of their own patients. Investigators on ethics approved studies have access only to the records of the study patients. Summary figures for the whole database will be available to registered users.

Further details of data security are provided in an appendix.

7. References

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, *Australian Framework for National Clinical Quality Registries*. Sydney. ACSQHC, August 2024

NHMRC, *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2023*
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *Australian Privacy Principles Guidelines*

Appendix 1: Patient information and consent form

This form is a suggested template only for each centre to adapt to its own requirements. It is expected that all patients will have been provided with the opportunity to consent directly to their participation in the ANZTCT Registry, or otherwise that the data has been collected by the contributing centre in circumstances allowing for their data to be submitted to the ANZTCT Registry (for example, that the patient has been advised that their data may be used for quality and safety purposes). The patient consent procedure is dependent on the hospital policy of each contributing centre, and consent for data submission may be included with another consent process such as consent for transplant, cell therapy or tissue banking.

[Form of Participant Information Sheet on Following Page]

Participant Information Sheet

Australia and New Zealand Transplant & Cellular Therapies Registry (ANZTCT Registry, formerly ABMTRR)

The ANZTCT Registry collects information on all stem cell transplant and cell therapy procedures performed in Australia and New Zealand to monitor for quality assurance and resource planning. The existence of data collections such as this has enabled improvements in the safety and efficacy of transplantation and cell therapy over time and is permitted under Australian privacy laws for safety and quality purposes.

This data collection is also valuable for medical research and data linkage projects with other related datasets, both within Australia and overseas, which contributes to a greater understanding of these procedures and informs clinical improvements.

This Participant Information Sheet provides you with information about how the ANZTCT Registry operates and how your information is collected and handled to help you decide whether you would like to provide your consent to the additional use of your personal information for research, linkage and other related purposes.

Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

'What kind of information will be collected, and how?'

The information collected relates to your diagnosis and procedure. Most of the information required is available from your medical record so no additional information will be collected directly from you.

A hospital staff member will either complete a paper form to submit to the Registry or enter the information directly into an online database. There is sufficient identifying information to allow for follow up data to be recorded. The demographic data collected are name codes (only if your hospital chooses to, maximum is 4 letters of the surname and 2 letters of the first name), sex, date of birth, and postcode of usual residence. The transplant or cell therapy data include diagnosis, date and type of procedure, donor relation, HLA matching information, preparatory treatments and cell doses. The outcome data include complications, disease response and survival.

In the case of cell therapy, a brief questionnaire for Patient Reported Outcomes is also collected at the direction of the Commonwealth in order to better assess the benefits of these treatments.

'What will happen to my information?'

Your information will be stored for an indefinite period of time in the secure ANZTCT Registry database which is managed by ANZTCT in accordance with the ANZTCT Registry Protocol (as may be amended from time to time), the current version of which can be found at <https://anztct.org.au/registry/data-management-resources/>.

'Who will have access to my information once it has been stored?'

Any information which will identify you will not be included in any report or publication.

Staff employed by ANZTCT to operate the ANZTCT Registry collate and maintain the data and prepare regular reports for clinicians, health administrators, regulatory agencies and, in the case of cell therapy, sponsors or manufacturers of the therapy. Health administrators and regulatory agencies may use the information for resource planning and quality assurance purposes.

Authorised personnel at participating hospitals have access only to patient data from their own hospital, to enable follow-up.

All other data uses involve de-identified data, summary information or analyses only. This type of information may be provided to clinicians or researchers, e.g. for specific subsets of patients such as those with a particular disease or type of procedure. Investigators on HREC approved studies have access only to the records of the approved study patients. De-identified or summary information may

also be shared with other approved local and international organisations such as disease registries (eg blood cancers), AusCord (to monitor cord transplants in Australia) or other registries or collections such as the Global Activity Survey (based in Switzerland) and the Asia Pacific Blood and Marrow Transplantation group (APBMT).

‘What will happen if I don’t consent?’

Your treatment and relationship with your doctor and hospital will not be affected. Information about your procedure will still be sent to the ANZTCT Registry for administrative and quality purposes, but no data will be shared for other projects.

‘Who should I contact if I have concerns about this registry database?’

Your treating doctor should be able to answer any questions about the ANZTCT Registry. Further information is also available on the website: <https://anztct.org.au/registry/>

Or contact us by email at: Registry@anztct.org.au

Thank you for taking the time to consider this data collection.

If you wish to participate, please sign the attached consent form.

This information sheet is for you to keep.

Participant Consent Form

Australia and New Zealand Transplant & Cellular Therapies Registry (ANZTCT Registry, formerly ABMTRR)

I, _____ (patient name)

of _____ (usual place of residence)

agree to the use of my personal information collected and uploaded to the ANZTCT Registry, for the purpose of research, data linkage and other related projects, as described in the Participant Information Sheet attached to this form.

I acknowledge that I have read the Participant Information Sheet, which explains why I have been asked for my consent. The nature and risks of this database and proposed uses have been explained to me to my satisfaction.

Before signing this consent form, I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions relating to the risks and I have received satisfactory answers.

I acknowledge receipt of a signed copy of this Consent Form and the Participant Information Sheet.

Signature of participant	Please print name	Date
Signature of witness	Please print name	Date
Signature of investigator	Please print name	Date

Appendix 2: Online database security

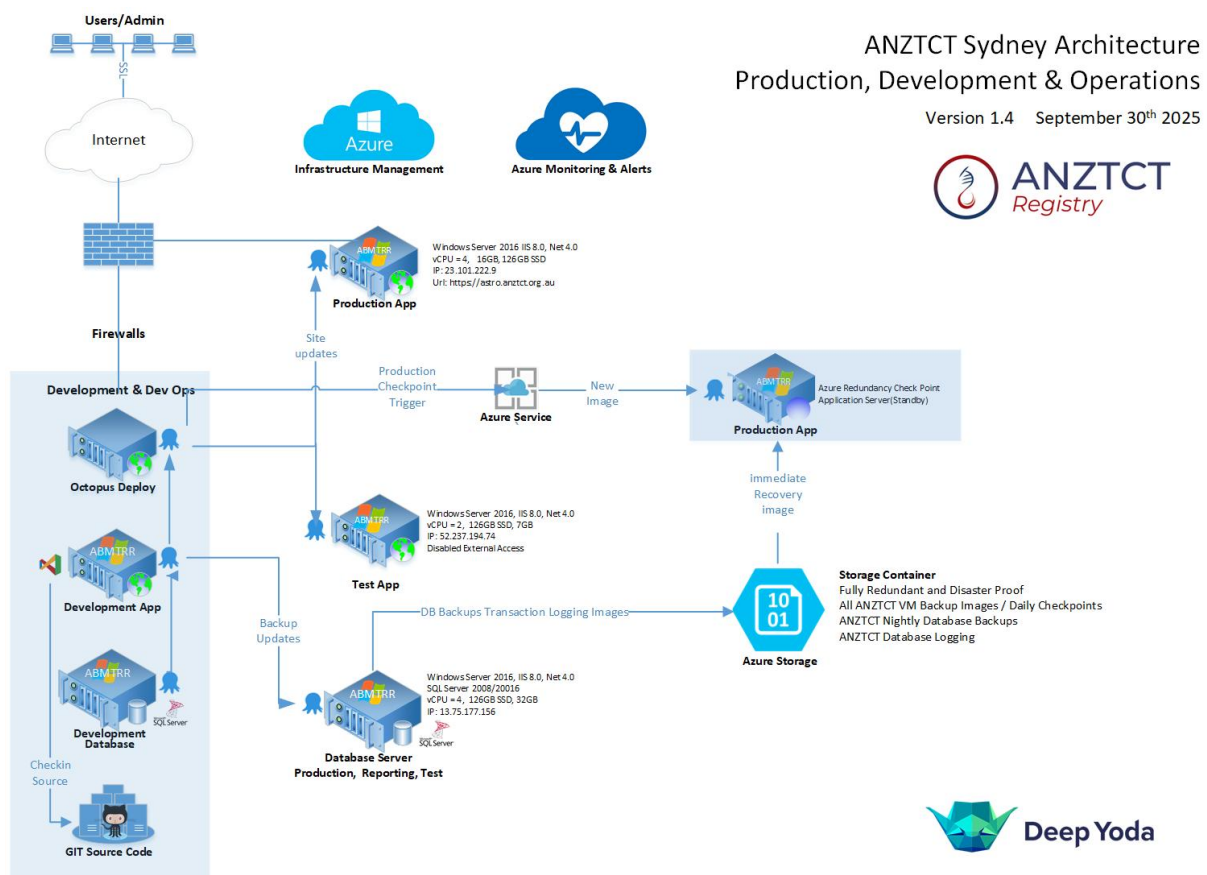
Database security statement from DEEPYODA Pty Ltd

DEEPYODA is committed to the protection of data/applications. To achieve the highest protection possible and implement leading industry best practices. Most of our clients including ABMTRR (now ANZTCT Registry) deal with sensitive user data that needs highest level of protection. To achieve the highest level of protection security and protection of data is implemented at a number of levels to ensure that privacy/security/integrity of customer data is not compromised.

ABMTRR Data Registry is developed, maintained and managed on Microsoft Azure by DEEPYODA Pty Ltd. The registry application employs a number of procedures/mechanisms for Security and Integrity of user/hospital data both on physical and technical level. Furthermore, Azure provides Enterprise level of security, fault-tolerance, data and intrusion protection. By moving the ANZTCT Registry system to Azure we increased the level of operational security and lowered operational risk.

Network Architecture

The diagram below depicts the ANZTCT Registry system architecture as configured on Azure as of September 30, 2025. The key components are shown along with key redundancy and backup mechanisms.



Security

To ensure security of the data, Registry implements application/data security at different levels and adheres to the Azure security policies.

1. **Physical Security:** The applications are physically hosted on servers on Azure infrastructure located in Australia. The following link describes the physical security applied access all of Microsoft data centres:

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/security/azure-physical-security>

2. **Server/Database Access:** Our servers and databases are protected by stringent firewall/access policies as prescribed by Microsoft Azure which are described here:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/trustcenter/security/azure-security>

All remote access to data is strictly limited to specific IP addresses. All data transiting the network is encrypted with SSL using a 4096 strength certificate and further protected by strong username password combinations.

3. **Data Communication Security:** All data communication between client (user's browser) and server (Registry System) occurs on secure channel commonly referred to as Secure Sockets Layer (SSL). SSL ensures that all data is encrypted by a private key on the server before it is sent on a wire to the client, where it is then decrypted by a public key so that security of data is not compromised along the way.

4. **Application Security:** ANZTCT Registry implements comprehensive Prowess Development Security Framework. All users of the ANZTCT Registry need to login to the system through a login screen with a pre-configured username and password controlled by administrators of the system. Once logged in, each user has a security profile that determines their access to different areas/pages of the ANZTCT Registry and also determines their access level as below:

- Manager – has full access
- Author – can create new records and Edit them
- Editor – can only Edit existing records
- Read only – can't change anything but read
- No Access – access to the page/data will be denied.

5. **Data Security:** The Registry application also implements Data Security where each user from hospital can only view patients/data associated to their own site/hospital. This data access is controlled by the administrators of the site.

Data Integrity and System Backup

The system implements backup using Azure services which are the leading methods. This includes daily backups of all servers images, databases and network infrastructure settings. To protect against loss of data within the 24-hour period between backup we implement database log shipping at 15 minute intervals.

An overview of the Azure backup services we utilise can be reviewed at this link.

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/backup/backup-introduction-to-azure-backup>

Systems and data is guaranteed using these services in-conjunction with an Azure Storage account.

Database security for the ANZTCT Cell Therapy REDCap Database

Platform Security

The ANZTCT Cell Therapy Data Collection Platform is maintained and managed on Microsoft Azure by Playtime Solutions Pty Ltd. The Azure Platform, which underpins the REDCap application and associated registry databases, has been designed with a strong emphasis on data and platform security. The following principles and controls are implemented to ensure compliance, integrity, and protection of sensitive clinical and research data.

- **Private Endpoint** – the Microsoft Azure Platform as a Service (PaaS) used by ANZTCT is hosted behind a private endpoint, ensuring secure and restricted access.
- **Single Point of Ingress** – All the REDCap application workloads are hosted within a virtual network (VNET) and are accessible via a single point of entry for web traffic from the internet.
- **Azure Web Application Firewall (WAF)** - To strengthen ANZTCT's web application security, a centrally managed Azure Web Application Firewall (WAF) has been implemented at the Application Gateway ingress point, providing protection against common web-based threats and enabling enhanced (Transport Layer Security) TLS security features.
- **Encryption in transit** - is enforced across the platform using industry-standard protocols such as TLS 1.2 or higher, ensuring data integrity and confidentiality as it moves between services, applications, and users, in alignment with security best practices and compliance requirements.
- **Restricted Access to Azure Platform** - Access to the Azure platform is restricted and managed through role-based access control (RBAC), with user permissions governed by Entra ID security groups to ensure secure and appropriate access to resources. Access to Virtual machines is achieved through the Azure Bastion service.
- **Identity and Access Management (IAM)** - Identity and access management is essential to ensure that only the right people and systems can access ANZTCT's REDCap platform and registry data. By using secure identity tools built into Azure, ANZTCT reduces the risks of passwords being misused or sensitive information being exposed. Access is granted on a "least privilege" basis – meaning users and applications only get the minimum level of access they need to perform their role. This approach strengthens data protection, simplifies management, and provides clear oversight of who has access to critical research systems at any given time.
- **System Backup** - The Azure Backup service is employed to perform daily backups of all servers, images, databases, and network infrastructure settings, with recovery points stored in a Recovery Services vault, enabling secure and efficient restoration from the Microsoft Azure cloud.

REDCap Security

Access to REDCap is provided through a secure web interface, with user authentication managed via administrator-controlled credentials maintained by ANZTCT. Each user is assigned a role-based security profile and a Data Access Group (DAG), which together govern their permissions within individual projects and ensure appropriate access to data and functionality. REDCap enforces encryption in transit using TLS protocols to protect data during transmission and maintains detailed audit logs to track user activity.

ANZTCT is responsible for managing the ongoing maintenance and upgrades of the REDCap application and its underlying database, ensuring the application remains secure, stable, and aligned with evolving technical and compliance requirements.