Has open data arrived at the *British Medical Journal (BMJ)*? 
An observational study

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Openness in scientific research

Data is the foundation of health and medical research

At the heart of open science is the principle that science belongs to humanity, to all of us

Image source: SCIENCE, 2014
Advance health and medical research and promote scientific innovation

A scientific paradigm shift

Closed science and hidden data

A period of transition

Open science and data sharing


Image source: Richard Morey, 2016

Image source: Open Source Malaria, 2016
Research incentives

Badges to Acknowledge Open Practices: A Simple, Low Cost, Effective Method for Increasing Transparency

Image source: Open Science Framework, 2016
Data depositories
Data sharing policies
Has open data arrived at the British Medical Journal (BMJ)? – an observational study

Aim of study: to quantify data sharing at the BMJ

Participants: 160 randomly sampled papers from 2009 - 2015 (no meta-analyses and systematic reviews)

Method: Analysed data sharing statements: is data available? Accessible? Verifiable? Policy compliance?
Concept of data sharing statement introduced

Concept of data sharing statement crystallised as policy

Researchers informed of upcoming policy change in 2013

Trials of drugs and medical devices must commit to making anonymised patient level data available upon reasonable request

Policy ended to all submitted clinical trials not just those that test drugs and devices
Data sharing rate for policy bound articles = 24% (95% CI: 8% to 47%)
Conclusions and recommendations

Possible explanations for low sharing rates:

- Wording of policy – too vague, loopholes are found
- Email requests for data end up in spam folders maybe?
- No rewards for data sharing

Time for tighter data sharing policy and better incentives for researchers to share their data
Thank you

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This paper's discussion is well worth a read along with #datasharing policy @BMJ_latest
https://t.co/feofvijMqr https://t.co/5ioNZHFMbm
16 Oct 2016

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Harlan Krumholz
@hmkyale

Sharing policy @bmj_latest not translating into a lot of sharing. Needs more than policies. #enforcement HT @trished https://t.co/o3JOH1sVgR https://t.co/IVmj8RLudb
15 Oct 2016