Public Health Informatics Institute

PCORnet CDC COVID-19 Electronic Healthcare Data Initiative

News and Updates

June 2022

Operational updates

Bi-monthly webinar

The project management team will host its next bi-monthly informational webinar on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. ET. The session will present data on recent queries and share plans for future queries being developed. Please register for the webinar prior to attending, and a calendar invitation will automatically be sent. A reminder email with this registration link and additional information will be shared closer to the webinar date.

Technical updates

Query update

Harvard Pilgrim has completed several queries in the last month, including:

- An updated assessment of disease severity through the Omicron wave.
- An execution of their advanced analytic query on chronic disease (to examine whether diabetes and hypertension control are associated with severe COVID-19).
- A report on their standard cumulative assessment of all patient tests for SARS-CoV-2 (which has been regularly distributed).

In addition, PCORnet partners have continued planning a query on risk and therapeutics, looking more broadly at cohorts of patients testing positive and receiving a diagnosis code for SARS-CoV-2, as well as high-risk patients meeting such criteria.

As shared in previous updates, the PCORnet team has ceased masking of small cell counts in reports that are generated with aggregate data across all participating sites in this project. At the outset of this project, Harvard Pilgrim obtained a public health surveillance exemption from their IRB and subsequently revised their protocol to note the capture of de-identified patient-level data, under which individual rows of data (or small counts) would fall. Observing actual cell size values is important for calculating precise incidence of rare complications of COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccinations, as well as facilitating advanced analytics on a query-specific basis. As with all of this work, the PCORnet team will continue to report aggregate data across sites to ensure that small cell counts are not specific to any individual site.

Over the next two months, PCORnet partners will continue reporting and planning upcoming queries, including the execution of the risk and therapeutics query.

Additional updates

Manuscripts and dissemination

Below is a summary of progress on manuscripts:

- Disparities in monoclonals: published in MMWR on January 14, 2022.
- Prevalence of PASC: published in JAMA Network Open on February 4, 2022.
- Myocarditis/pericarditis incidence post SARS-CoV-2 and mRNA vaccines: published in MMWR on April 1, 2022.
- Descriptive papers on both adult and pediatric cohorts are being updated to include data from the most recent cumulative query prior to submission. These papers are undergoing CDC clearance.

In addition, the CDC COVID Data Tracker was previously updated to include a description of our data type contribution and representation, as well as disease severity visualizations that include PCORnet data.

Updating data

Please continue to plan to refresh your COVID-19 Common Data Model (CDM) at the beginning of every month and update the inclusion criteria for the full CDM. Feedback from some sites indicate that their COVID CDM inclusion code list did not have some of the vaccine codes. The project team recently recirculated the code list and will send notice if there are any requests for additional updates prior to queries that might benefit from updated data.

Year 3

This contract period concludes at the end of July 2022. The project management team is currently working with CDC to plan for year 3 of this project. Potential activities within scope would include continuing regular query activities; improving query capability through programming and upgrades to report generation; enabling patient-level data pulls and obtaining IRB exemptions for such queries; and continuing advanced analytics. PCORnet partners will receive communication about those plans as soon as year 3 funding is confirmed.

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