

PCORnet CDC COVID-19 Electronic Healthcare Data Initiative

News and updates

February 2024

Operational updates

Happy New Year to all!

The PCORnet team has been working on several queries and projects for our collaborative work with CDC. The team is providing updates below on our work since the beginning of the current contract year in October 2023. Thank you so much for your continued work and support of this project. The project team looks forward to making some important progress over the coming months.

Upcoming webinar

The project management team will host its next informational webinar on Monday, February 12, at 1:00 p.m. ET. This one-hour session will provide a platform for sharing key project updates and answering site questions. Please [register for the webinar](#) prior to attending, and a calendar invitation will automatically be sent.

Technical updates

Query update

During this contract year, the PCORnet team is providing CDC with one-to-two queries per month. These queries provide aggregate data to CDC, with the production of a few patient-level datasets to facilitate more advanced analytics. The team has completed several queries in the last few months, including:

- **October 2023 (Query 45):** Updated version of our standard respiratory virus surveillance query examining all patients with COVID-19, influenza or RSV, with an assessment of case counts from October 2022 through September 2023 and use of COVID-19 and flu outpatient treatments from April 2022 through September 2023. This query also generated a patient-level dataset to facilitate analyses of risk factors associated with hospitalizations or mortality from COVID-19 and to explore predictors of use of COVID-19 outpatient therapeutics.
- **November 2023 (Query 46):** A rerun of the same query above but run on the Full rather than the COVID Common Data Model to facilitate comparisons of the data captured from each data source at the site level.
- **December 2023 (Query 47):** Flu-specific query assessing outpatient flu cases over several flu seasons, with the generation of a patient-level dataset for the 2022-23 season, allowing for exploration of the effectiveness of outpatient treatments for influenza.

Data sources for queries—moving to use the Full CDM for most queries

When comparing Queries 45 and 46, the project team discovered that data captured from the Full CDM at sites was typically more comprehensive than data available from the off-cycle updated COVID CDMs (which sites have been asked to update as needed for queries that require timely data). For most sites, the comparisons demonstrated reasonably similar data but with slightly more cases in the Full CDM query. In a few sites, these differences were quite large.

Moving forward, the team expects to run our queries on the Full CDM. There are a few exceptions to this:

- Some sites have more comprehensive data in their monthly refreshed COVID CDM. The team will ask these sites to continue updating their COVID CDM upon request and to run selected queries on that COVID CDM (such as our next query in January 2024). The team will reach out to these sites when the team wants them to do so. This should only affect 7 of the 34 sites that are currently included in the project. Unless you are contacted regarding this, please run all queries on your Full CDM (and you do not need to update your COVID CDM).
- CDC may come up with some high-priority requests that require updated COVID CDMs. The team expects this to be rare, and will contact you directly regarding this. The team does not currently anticipate any of these queries in the next several months.

Upcoming queries

Our current plans are to complete the following queries over the next few months:

- **January 2024 (Query 48):** Repeat of standard respiratory virus surveillance query, extending the capture of cases through December 2023. The team expects to release this query on January 22nd, with responses due by February 5th. This query will run on the Full CDM for most sites, except those for whom the project team will request to run it on the COVID CDM.
- **February 2024 (Query 49):** Repeat of our assessment of cardiac complications after COVID-19, comparing patients previously vaccinated for COVID-19 to those without prior documentation of COVID-19 vaccinations. This query will run on the Full CDM for most sites, except those the project team requests to run it on the COVID CDM.
- **February 2024 (Query 50):** The team is currently in discussions with CDC about a potential rerun of a query that would examine preventive care service use and/or incident disease diagnoses from 2018 to 2023, similar to the prior queries that the project team completed through 2022. This query will run on the Full CDM.
- **March 2024 (Query 51):** The team has been developing a query with the HIV prevention division at CDC to examine the use of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. This query will run on the Full CDM.

The PCORnet team anticipates several other priority areas to emerge over the rest of the contract period, including repeat queries that assess characteristics of patients with respiratory viral illnesses over the entire pandemic, as well as some queries to examine emerging topics of interest related to maternal morbidity/mortality, birth defects and childhood disabilities, among other topics.

Additional Updates

Manuscripts and dissemination

The PCORnet team has made substantial progress on manuscripts over the last few months, including several papers submitted for review and one publication. Below is a summary:

- A manuscript examining the association between control of diabetes and hypertension and severe COVID-19 outcomes was published in Journal of the American Heart Association in November 2023.
- A manuscript on predictors of Post-Acute Sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC) received an initial review, and a revision was submitted in October 2023 to BMC Infectious Diseases.
- A descriptive paper on trends in preventive care use and incident chronic disease from 2018-2022 was submitted to Preventing Chronic Disease in November 2023; the journal has requested a revision to be resubmitted in January 2024.

- A manuscript on the association of prior COVID-19 vaccination (vs. no documentation of a vaccination) with cardiac complications after SARS-CoV-2 infection has been drafted; CDC colleagues are currently reviewing the initial draft. The team intends to rerun a query in February 2024 that will update this data through the end of 2023, facilitating use of a timely dataset prior to submission.
- A draft of a manuscript on trends in COVID-19 disease severity over time has been circulated to writing committee members and will likely be submitted for publication in February 2024.
- Further manuscripts that are being considered are 1) predictors of COVID-19 hospitalization and mortality; 2) predictors of prescriptions for outpatient treatments for COVID-19; and 3) evaluation of effectiveness of outpatient flu treatment.

In addition to manuscripts, this project provides important data for the CDC COVID Data Tracker. This tracker provides national surveillance data on SARS-CoV-2 infections, and PCORnet is one of three data sources that CDC utilizes to provide information on healthcare-associated data, including hospitalizations and severe COVID-19 infections requiring critical care or mechanical ventilation. This data is available online and is currently updated through September 2023. Data visualizations [can be viewed here](#).

As usual, please let us know if there are questions or concerns. Lauren Cleveland at the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute is the main point of contact lauren_cleveland@hphci.harvard.edu.



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