

PCORnet CDC COVID-19 Electronic Healthcare Data Initiative

News and updates

July 2024

Operational updates

Thank you so much for your continued work and support of this project. Since February 2024, the date of the last newsletter, we have been working on several queries and projects for our collaborative work with CDC. Below are our updates. We also want to mention that we are aware of run time problems with some of the queries. We continue to troubleshoot these and welcome ongoing feedback about query performance at your sites.

Upcoming webinar

The project management team will host its next informational webinar on **Monday, July 22, at 11:00 a.m. ET**. This one-hour session will provide a platform for sharing key project updates and answering site questions. Please [register for the webinar](#) in advance. A calendar invitation with call information will automatically be sent once you have registered.

Technical updates

New hosting platform for queries—moving to JIRA and the AWS System

We will be sunsetting PopMedNet and have started using JIRA and the Amazon Web Services (AWS) buckets—as other PCORnet Front Door queries do—for our next query (v54), the updated flu surveillance query. The first use of this process will be a "test run." If you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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:

- **June 2024 (Query 53):** a query examining stroke and venous thromboembolism after COVID-19; this query report has been completed and was sent to CDC the week of June 24.
- **May 2024 (Query 52):** repeat viral respiratory illness surveillance query with updated patient-level data; this query report has been completed and was sent to CDC the week of June 24.
- **April 2024 (Query 51):** assessment of gestational diabetes and gestational hypertension over the pandemic; this query report has been completed.
- **March 2024 (Query 50):** query exploring the use of pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV during the period of the pandemic; this query report has been completed, and some ongoing troubleshooting work related to payer type continues to proceed.
- **February 2024 (Query 49):** repeat query of the post-SARS-CoV-2 cardiac complications assessment, extending the period of exploration to January 2022 through December 2023; this query has been completed.
- **February 2024 (Query 48):** the respiratory virus query assessing characteristics and clinical outcomes of patients with COVID-19, flu and RSV, and COVID-19 therapeutics; this query has been completed.

Upcoming queries

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

- **June 2024 (Query 54):** a repeat flu surveillance query, assessing flu cases from October 2022-April 2023 and October 2023-March 2024. This will update flu data from a prior query and will produce a patient-level dataset that will allow CDC analysts to examine the uptake of flu antiviral medications.
- **July 2024 (Query 55):** a combined query on cancer screening and opioid use disorder, using aggregate data only.

These will be the final queries of this contract period. The Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII) has submitted a proposal to CDC for Year 5 of this study, which, if funded, would begin in October 2024 and continue through July 2025. We anticipate running fewer queries (probably five to six) during the next contract year due to changes in CDC funding. We will update sites in the coming months as we have more information.

Additional updates

Manuscripts and dissemination

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

- [A manuscript on predictors of Post-Acute Sequelae of COVID-19 \(PASC\)](#) was published in *BMC Infectious Diseases* in February 2024. This paper has site collaborative authors.
- [A descriptive paper on trends in preventive care use and incident chronic disease from 2018-2022](#) will be published in *Preventing Chronic Disease* in July or August 2024. This paper has site collaborative authors.
- A manuscript on geriatric COVID-19 disease severity and the use of COVID-19 medications has completed clearance by CDC and was submitted to *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly (MMWR)* in June 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 and is being reviewed by an initial round of co-authors. This paper will have site-collaborative authors. In April, Jason Block presented the results from this analysis to a Working Group of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- A draft of a manuscript on trends in COVID-19 disease severity over time has been updated and is under review with an aim to submit by August 2024. This paper will have site-collaborative authors.
- A draft of a manuscript on the timing of stroke with acute COVID-19 and influenza from aggregated 2022 data has been distributed to co-authors with the goal to start clearance in August. This paper will have site-collaborative authors.
- Further manuscripts that are currently being prepared are 1) risks for severe COVID-19, 2) COVID-19 medication disparities, and 3) use of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV. Additional manuscripts will be developed with the data reports that are currently being produced for CDC. We anticipate that these papers will have collaborative authors.

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. New data through March 2024 will soon be provided.

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 at lauren_cleveland@hphci.harvard.edu.



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