Optum

Digital Research Network

An integrated digital solution that redefines the clinical trial process

Traditional clinical trial methods involve disparate workstreams and require considerable manual processes. Furthermore, identifying and recruiting patients that meet protocol-specific eligibility criteria presents its own unique set of challenges. The result is clinical trials that are expensive, time consuming, inflexible, and not fully representative of provider encounters and patient populations.

The Optum® Digital Research Network (DRN) addresses these complexities by helping to streamline and automate the clinical trial process. Through its technology applications, the DRN leverages electronic medical record (EMR) systems used in clinical care to find protocol-eligible patients, accelerate study enrollment and streamline data collection. Its integrated research capabilities provide critical support to the design, start-up and execution of clinical studies that are faster, utilize fewer resources, and are more grounded in real-world clinical practice.

How it works

This solution consists of a tech-enabled network of provider sites interested in participating in industry-sponsored (pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device) clinical research. The DRN provides access to EMRs and other patient data from providers for use in patient finding, study enrollment and data capture for clinical research projects. Access to the DRN's data and technology allows:

- Research sponsors to design studies based on representative cohorts of patients who meet study eligibility criteria
- Sponsors and sites to more easily assess feasibility of a given protocol
- Sites to more efficiently find and recruit protocol-eligible patients by prescreening for eligibility through the unprecedented breadth and depth of the Optum electronic health record (EHR) database.
- Precise and accurate capture of study endpoints and other data directly at their source after enrollment begins

Supporting tools and technology

Dynamic self-service software application that allows users to search for numbers of U.S. patients and investigators based on specific clinical trial protocol eligibility criteria.

Feasibility analysis and precision patient-finding software application developed for finding patients who are eligible for a given clinical trial using EHR data.

Middleware technology that enables study data to be pulled direct from the EMR and loaded into a study specific database or electronic data capture (EDC) system.

Across the board benefits

Life sciences: The Digital Research Network enables sponsors to accelerate clinical trials by accessing protocol-eligible patients through one of the largest real-world data (RWD) assets. It also enables use of RWD to support clinical trials in a manner that reduces manual data transcription, thereby reducing data queries.

Providers: Through access to tools and technology, the DRN helps providers reduce the disruption trial participation causes in clinical practice, while increasing revenue potential, by bringing incremental research opportunities through our access to industry-sponsored (pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device) clinical research.

Patients: For patients, participating in research as a care option offers the ability to engage in clinical trials from a local medical practice setting, where they can receive their regular care. Being part of a clinical trial could also mean access to no-cost investigational treatments, a way to gain access to the best possible care, and potential reimbursement for expenses associated with study participation.

30%

Based on an independent estimate, the Digital Research Network reduces the average time and cost of patient recruitment and study monitoring by 30% .

*Percentage savings calculated net of pass-through costs

Research-ready

Research-ready means our data consists of the elements necessary to demonstrate it meets ALCOA criteria, meaning data is attributable, legible, contemporaneous, original and accurate to meet regulatory requirements.

With the Digital Research Network data set, Optum can directly identify investigators and patient populations. This enables a streamlined process from site and patient identification through enrollment to enable informed and consented participation in clinical research.

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