PCORnet® is a PCORI-funded initiative to enable patient-centered clinical research to be conducted faster, more easily, and more efficiently. It does so by offering reusable resources and tapping into rich sources of real-world data, which is collected during routine care through electronic health records (EHRs), patient-reported outcomes, health claims, and other sources.

By leveraging health information collected in everyday healthcare situations and settings, PCORnet generates real-world evidence about the comparative clinical effectiveness of therapies, diagnostics, and prevention strategies. This evidence also is important for understanding particular patient populations, measuring healthcare use and outcomes, and conducting ongoing evaluations of the safety of drugs after they’re approved.

PCORnet unites patients, clinicians, researchers, health systems, and health plans to expedite research that can improve health care and patient outcomes.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS**

PCORnet offers the ability to glean important insights from protected health data on roughly 70 million patients from more than 100 health systems nationwide. Studies using PCORnet’s resources have produced useful results:

**PCORNET BARIATRIC STUDY**
This study involving records from more than 41,000 patients showed gastric bypass surgery yielded the greatest amount of weight loss but had a higher risk for near-term adverse events compared to the newer, simpler technique of sleeve gastrectomy or the older gastric banding surgery.

**ANTIBIOTICS AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY**
Based on records from more than 360,000 children, this study found that receiving multiple doses of antibiotics during the first two years did not appreciably increase children’s risk of becoming overweight or obese.

**CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND ASTHMA**
Assessment of some 500,000 children’s records showed obesity increases children’s risk of developing asthma. It’s a finding that has been long suspected, but until now we lacked hard data from a study of this size and scope to prove.

PCORnet represents:

**MORE THAN 70 MILLION PATIENTS**
who have had a medical encounter in the past five years

*some individuals may have visited more than one partner network partner and would be counted more than once
Operating as a “network of networks,” PCORnet is comprised of two network types:

Clinical Research Networks (CRNs) originate in healthcare systems and securely collect health information during the routine course of patient care.

- ADVANCE: Accelerating Data Value across a National Community Health Center Network
- CAPriCORN: Chicago Area Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Network
- GPC: Greater Plains Collaborative
- PEDSnet: A Pediatric Learning Health System
- Insight-NYC
- OneFlorida
- PaTH: Towards a Learning Health System in the Mid-Atlantic Region
- REACHnet: Research Action for Health Network
- STAR: Stakeholders, Technology, and Research CRN

Health Plan Research Networks (HPRNs) are health plans that cover significant numbers of patients in one or more of the CRNs.

- HCARN: HealthCore/Anthem Research Network American
- PRACnet/Humana

A Coordinating Center connects the “network of networks” and coordinates data, research, and engagement activities.

HARNESSING REAL-WORLD DATA TO ANSWER KEY NEEDS

PCORnet offers secure access to large amounts of high-quality data that can be used for a variety of research purposes. PCORnet is open to research requests from researchers, patient groups, industry, agencies and others.

The Requestor sends a question to PCORnet

PCORnet Leadership reviews the question and consults with Requestor about next step

Network partners review the query and provide a response, which is sent back through the Coordinating Center and to the Requestor

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