

The future of clinical research: developing new drugs faster using electronic health records

Innovative medicines can prevent, cure, slow or alter the evolution of diseases, and bring real value to patients. Despite increased investments in research and development, fewer medicines are being brought to market due to the increasing complexity of clinical trials, slow patient recruitment, time-consuming clinical trial execution, and escalating clinical research costs.

The findings of a new study show that reusing health data from hospital-based electronic health records (EHR) for clinical research would improve clinical trial design and execution, and generate significant benefits.

Published in the scientific journal "Contemporary Clinical Trials", this new cost-benefit study establishes that a new revolutionary technological platform developed by the "Electronic Health Records for Clinical Research" (EHR4CR) project, co-funded by the European Commission and by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, under the Innovative Medicines Initiative, would enhance clinical research processes, reduce clinical trial delays and costs, and generate substantial added value for clinical trial sponsors.

By connecting securely to the data within multiple hospital-based EHR systems and clinical data warehouses across Europe, this new platform enables clinical trial sponsors to better assess the feasibility of clinical trial protocols, identify eligible patients for their timely recruitment in clinical trials, and ensure optimal data exchange during study execution, including for reporting serious adverse events. This ground-breaking platform is expected to increase the efficiency of existing clinical research processes, and speed up the development of new drugs.

This major advancement will transform clinical research environments, generate significant benefits and added value, and contribute to delivering safe and effective innovative medicines to patients faster. These new value-added solutions are now being scaled up across Europe.

Dr. Danielle Dupont
*Chief Scientific Officer, Data Mining International
Geneva, Switzerland*

Publication

[Cost-benefit assessment of using electronic health records data for clinical research versus current practices: Contribution of the Electronic Health Records for Clinical Research \(EHR4CR\) European Project.](#)

Beresniak A, Schmidt A, Proeve J, Bolanos E, Patel N, Ammour N, Sundgren M, Ericson M, Karakoyun T, Coorevits P, Kalra D, De Moor G, Dupont D.
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