

## Data-Driven Health and Clinical Research : The Carolina Data Warehouse for Health and Clinical Data Research Networks

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#### September 22, 2016

# What is NC TraCS?

- Tracs is UNC's NIH CTSA (Clinical & Translational Science Award), one of 62 CTSAs across the US.
- Much more than research data provisioning; we touch all areas of *translational* science at UNC.
- Translational science: "Bench to bedside"



# TraCS Informatics' Mission (in short)

- Serve as a technical and regulatory liaison between the UNC Health Care System and the university for *research* uses of Carolina Data Warehouse for Health data.
- Support approved secondary uses of those data in informatics and clinical research projects.



The Carolina Data Warehouse for Health

# What is the CDW-H?

- The Carolina Data Warehouse for Health
- Aggregate of electronic health record data collected in UNCHCS, live as of 2009
- Data on ~4.8+ Million unique patients, 900K+ continuous, expanding with UNCHCS
- Data collection dates back to July 2004



# The CDW-H Data Model

The CDW-H contains data in all of the following domains (and more):

- Patient demographics
- Encounter details
- Diagnoses
- Procedures
- Providers
- Patient vitals
- Lab tests
- Medications

- Orders
- Notes
- Charges and Payors
- Surgery
- Labor and delivery
- Medical and social history
- Patient-reported data
- Custom data elements



# "Computable Phenotypes"

Can you pull data from the CDW-H that will show me all patients between ages \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, who have been diagnosed with \_\_\_\_\_, but haven't had a \_\_\_\_\_\_ in the last 6 months, but have had \_\_\_\_\_ visits in the \_\_\_\_\_\_ clinic over the past year? I also need to know if they're taking \_\_\_\_\_\_, or have had any \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_, or lab values over mg/ml in the past year.



# Example uses of CDW-H data

- Support clinical operations and quality improvement efforts
- Collect multiple data points for analysis from patients meeting specific criteria, for operations, QI, or research purposes
- Create patient registries/data marts to support population health, QI, and research
- Embark on data-sharing projects with investigators at peer institutions



About Clinical Data Research Networks (CDRNs)

## **Clinical Data Research Networks**

- A CDRN allows UNC to "share" clinical data with participating institutions.
- Federated data model
  - Data and data warehouses stay distinct, each organization controls use of its own data
- Generally based within large integrated delivery systems
- Supported by PCORI, NIH, Foundations (Duke Endowment)



# How do we federate data with other systems?

- □ Through use of a common data model, or CDM.
- Data tables are small in number and generic in structure.
- Each institution is responsible for transforming their data from their electronic health records into the CDM chosen by the CDRN. Then the data can be queried as one, yet kept separate.



#### **Data Federation**





#### **Data Federation**









#### PCORnet Common Data Model



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## Federated Data versus HIE

#### □ Form follows function.

- Federated database infrastructure is useful for ad hoc querying across institutions.
  - Ex: How many patients in this network are <65 and have end-stage renal disease?
- Health Information Exchange is useful to support clinical care, in real time.
  - Ex: What care has Ms. Johnson received at Duke that may have an impact on my clinical decisions at her appointment today?



# UNC and CDRNs

- UNC is participating in two CDRNs, the Carolinas
  Collaborative (UNC, Duke, Wake Forest, and Health Sciences South Carolina) and the Mid-South CDRN (Vanderbilt, UNC, Duke, HSSC).
- We are pooling our (deidentified) clinical data with these collaborators so that a query can be run across multiple institutions and health systems at once.
- Why pool data?
  - **t** to do multi-institutional quality improvement work.
  - **to** improve recruitment for multi-site trials.
  - to make "big data" actually "big."



# PCORnet

- PCORI's National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network
   13 clinical data research networks
- Designed to make it faster, easier, less costly to conduct clinical research...by harnessing the power of large amounts of health data and patient partnerships
- □ ~145 million lives





# Here's how PCORnet's distributed research network works

The Researcher sends a question to the PCORnet Coordinating Center through the Front Door The Coordinating Center converts the question into a query with an underlying executable code, and sends it to PCORnet partners PCORnet partners review the query and provide a response, which is sent back through the Front Door to the Researcher



# **Carolinas Collaborative**

- A "local" collaborative for the Carolinas, member of the Mid-South PCORnet
- Designed to complement the Mid-South CDRN
- □ Involved sites:
  - Health Sciences South Carolinas (lead), including Medical University of South Carolina
  - UNC-Chapel Hill
  - Duke University
  - Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
- Funded by The Duke Endowment





# Technical challenges

- Agreement on common data elements
- De-duplication of patients when delivery systems are adjacent to each other (UNC, Duke)
- Development of computable disease phenotypes for multiple clinical conditions
- Expectations for rapid turnaround of requests
- □ Linkages with vital status records, geocodes, claims
- Secure computing and data environments while maintaining appropriate access



# Where does claims data come in?

- Integrated delivery systems are 'open,' delivering variable proportions of care for a given patient
- Claims data, while less detailed, is more comprehensive
- Linkage of EMR, claims and direct patient reports may provide comprehensive portrait of care









- Possible to use linkage methodologies to combine EHR and claims data.
- Provides a comprehensive, longitudinal view of patient's health care utilization and outcomes.
- More complete data = better patient care, better quality, better research.
- Governance is paramount, but once precedent is set, future projects are easier.



Thank you!

Questions? Discussion?