Comparative Effectiveness Research Through a Collaborative Electronic Reporting Consortium

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ABSTRACT: The United States lacks a system to use routinely collected electronic health record (EHR) clinical data to conduct comparative effectiveness research (CER) on pediatric drug therapeutics and other child health topics. This Special Article describes the creation and details of a network of EHR networks devised to use clinical data in EHRs for conducting CER, led by the American Academy of Pediatrics Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS). To achieve this goal, PROS has linked data from its own EHR-based “ePROS” network with data from independent practices and health systems across the United States. Beginning with 4 of proof-of-concept retrospective CER studies on psychotropic and asthma medication use and side effects with a planned full-scale prospective CER study on treatment of pediatric hypertension, the Comparative Effectiveness Research Through Collaborative Electronic Reporting (CER2) collaborators are developing a platform to advance the methodology of pediatric pharmacoepidemiology. CER2 will provide a resource for future CER studies in pediatric drug therapeutics and other child health topics. This article outlines the vision for and present composition of this network, governance, and challenges and opportunities for using the network to advance child health and health care. The goal of this network is to engage child health researchers from around the United States in participating in collaborative research using the CER2 database.

Journal:

Pediatrics
Authors: Fiks A, Grundmeier R, Steffes J, Adams W, Kaelber D, Pace W, Wasserman R, for the Comparative Effectiveness Research Through Collaborative Electronic Reporting (CER2) Consortium

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