

Why Should My Practice Become a DARTNet Member?

- *Benchmarking reports for selected conditions to gauge your practice's performance and outcomes*
- *Knowledge acquisition and transfer through learning community activities*
- *Practical forum to pose questions to learning community*
- *Research opportunities to improve your practice and your patients' health*
- *Enhanced reporting capacity and assistance using CINA decision support tools*
- *Recognition as leader in improving medical safety and effectiveness by your patients and peers*
- *Member of a dynamic group of clinicians and researchers contributing to the body of knowledge necessary to improve healthcare quality*

Better Information for Enhanced Patient Care



What is [DARTNet](#)?

The Distributed Ambulatory Research in Therapeutics Network (DARTNet) is a federated network of electronic health record data from multiple organizations, hundreds of clinicians and hundreds of thousands of patients with a goal to continue to expand rapidly. A federated network is a collection of databases that reside in multiple places and organizations but that linked through DARTNet can be searched and queried as one large database.

Why Was DARTNet Created?

DARTNet was formed in 2007 in response to a request for proposals from the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#), the Nation's lead federal agency dedicated to research on health care quality, costs, outcomes, and patient safety.

How does DARTNet work?

Data from each member practice's EHR and other available data sources are captured, de-identified, coded, standardized and stored in a database called the Clinical Data Repository (CDR) which resides in your practice.

Data from the CDR is transferred to another database called the Gateway. The Gateway makes de-identified data from DARTNet practices available through a secure Web-portal to be used for research studies and quality improvement activities. Permission from your practice is required each and every time to make these data available for any use.

Who Runs DARTNet?

DARTNet is a public/private partnership of 5 organizations:

- University of Colorado Department of Family Medicine and School of Pharmacy
- American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network,
- Clinical Integration Networks of America, Inc. (CINA)
- The Robert Graham Policy Center
- University of Utah's Center for High Performance Computing

What Work Has DARTNet Done?

In the last 18 months DARTNet has conducted a set of pilot studies to test the application, integrity, functionality, and security of the system including:

- Study of the comparative effectiveness and safety of oral medications for patients with Type 2 diabetes
- Study of two interventions for community acquired MRSA
- Study of interventions to improve medication management in ambulatory settings

Immediately in the horizon is a new study to assess the comparative effectiveness and safety of different therapies for major depression. Practices will screen adult and adolescent patients using the PHQ9 instrument and conduct point of care data collection to track and document the beginning and end of a depression episode.

What's Requested from DARTNet Practices?

- Provide access to your de-identified data for studies – access under your control
- Facilitate point of care data collection for studies in which you elect to participate
- Full electronic prescribing currently or in the near future
- When identified as a top-performer agree to share your "story" with the learning community
- Ensure one practice clinician and one staff member completes a 45-minute online human subjects training course
- Identify a practice champion/liason for DARTNet