Requirements When Using UVM Health Self-Service Tools for Research

University of Vermont Health

To learn more about the UVM Health Self-Service Tools listed here, visit UVM Health DMO Self-Service Analytics & Training (on the UVM Health Intranet), or email DataGovernance@UVMHealth.org.

Tool Overview		Institutional & Regulatory Requirements
Epic's Reporting Workbench	• Primarily designed for operational reporting but can also be used for research purposes. • Provides time-sensitive, up-to-date information with a focused scope and concise result lists.	• Must be an existing UVM Health Epic user • Regulatory requirements depend on study-specific criteria: ○ Accessing identifiable PHI for research may require IRB approval.[1] ○ Accessing a Limited Data Set (i.e., only indirect identifiers as permitted by HIPAA) may require a Data Use Agreement[2]. No IRB approval is required. ○ Accessing identifiable PHI for study recruitment may require a partial waiver of HIPAA authorization with IRB approval or the Preparatory to Research form[3]. ○ Accessing identifiable PHI for the purpose of study/grant preparation may require the Preparatory to Research form[3]; no IRB approval is required.
Epic's Slicer Dicer	• Offers customizable data exploration capabilities. • Allows refinement of searches, trend analysis, totals, averages, and drill-down to line-level details.	
Epic's Radar Dashboards	• Provides user-specific dashboards that consolidate information from multiple data sources available based on the user's role.	
Epic's Cosmos	• Cohorting tool containing data from across the Epic community, available for clinical or research use. • Data sets that can be leveraged within Cosmos include: 1. anonymized or aggregated data sourced from a Limited Data Set 2. de-identified data via Cosmos Data Science, accessible to authorized staff	• Requires an Epic UserWeb account & Cosmos user account that can be requested here. • Accessing the Limited Data Set requires acceptance of the Cosmos Data Use Agreement; no IRB approval is required.
TriNetX	• Global health research network containing more than 250 million patient records, including data from UVM Health since 2010 • Useful for study design and feasibility (e.g., preparatory to research), clinical trial site identification and recruitment, and secondary research. • Using the Research Network, users leverage de-identified data; using the UVM Network, users leverage anonymous or aggregate data from UVM Health that can be used to obtain patient level information when appropriate for the study.	• Available to UVM Health employees (any Partner) or UVM faculty, staff, and students with an UVMNetID (refer to TriNetX Resources) • Accessing anonymized or aggregate data from TriNetX does not require IRB approval. • Requesting PHI from the DMO using TriNetX Patient IDs will require approved documentation such as IRB approval, a Data Use Agreement, or the Preparatory to Research form, depending on the study-specific criteria.

1. *IRB approval is required when an activity constitutes human subjects research. A 'human subject' means a living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains information or biospecimens through intervention or interaction with the individual, and uses, studies, or analyzes the information or biospecimens; or obtains, uses, studies, analyzes, or generates identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens. The federal definition of research is "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.*
2. *Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, a Limited Data Set is defined as protected health information (PHI) that excludes direct identifiers of an individual or of relatives, employers, or household members of that individual. A Data Use Agreement between the source of the PHI and the recipient is needed for use of a Limited Data Set. Refer to the IRB Forms Library.*
3. *If you are UVM Health workforce and PHI will not be removed from UVM Health systems, you may use the Preparatory to Research HIPAA exception (45 CFR 164.512(i)(1)(ii)) to access PHI for the purpose of study/grant preparation or study recruitment.*