Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD)

Key contact details:

Enquiries relating to CPRD data and access should be directed to enquiries@cprd.com.

CPRD data dictionary:

CPRD collects anonymised patient data from a network of GP practices across the UK. Primary care data are linked to a range of other health related data to provide a longitudinal, representative UK population health dataset. The data encompass 60 million patients, including 18 million currently registered patients and contains information on diagnoses, symptoms, referrals, prescriptions, test results, and patient health behaviours.

CPRD data are generally representative of the UK population with respect to age, gender and ethnicity – an invaluable resource, providing a real-world picture to support public health research.

CPRD is divided into two primary care datasets: **CPRD GOLD** and **CPRD Aurum**. Information about each dataset including data specifications, structure and coding systems can be found here.

Please find further information on CPRD and the data it holds here.

Accessing CPRD data:

Access to CPRD is subject to approval by CPRD's Research Data Governance (RDG) process, whereby the researcher and protocol are assessed to maintain public and professional trust and ensure the research is publicly beneficial and methodologically robust.

Before applying for access to CPRD data, it is important to explore the data licences available and decide which you will be applying for. CPRD offers the following two data licences:

Single study dataset licence – where a study dataset defined by an approved research application will be extracted by CPRD.

Multi-study licence – enables an organisation to conduct multiple studies within a 12-month period and for nominated users to access the primary care data directly.

CPRD's data access pathway is outlined below:

Step 1 – CPRD Client Approval: Organisations must first gain CPRD Client approval in order to access CPRD data. Further details on this approval process and the necessary application forms can be found here.

Step 2 – Applying for access: All protocols must be submitted via the Electronic Research Applications Portal (eRAP). Applicants and all members of the research team need an approved eRAP in order to move forward and submit an application. Once approved, researchers can draft and submit research applications for review. A decision on an application can normally be expected within 4 weeks of submission.

Step 3 – Approval: If the research application is approved by RDG, a licence agreement must be put in place between CPRD and the research application sponsor, and between the sponsor and any collaborators accessing the CPRD data. CPRD will execute the appropriate contract templates, covering the terms and conditions for the data requested.

Step 4 – Access: CPRD will then liaise with the research application chief investigator and corresponding applicant to agree on a data specification, specifying how the study population is to be defined. Once agreed and signed, CPRD will extract and deliver the final study dataset containing all variables justified in the approved protocol via secure data transfer.

More detailed information and guidance on CPRD's data access pathway can be found here.

User access agreements:

A licence agreement must be put in place between CPRD and the research application sponsor, as well as between the sponsor and any collaborators accessing the CPRD data. CPRD will execute the appropriate contract templates, covering the terms and conditions for the data requested.

Cost of access:

CPRD is a government funded, not for profit organisation. CPRD do apply charges to cover costs such as processing, governance and access and these will be agreed during the application process. Further information on CPRD pricing can be found here.

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