

Reliable insights regarding medication outcomes from real world datakey principles of an evidence generation framework

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FDA's Sentinel system

- 2007 FDA Amendments Act mandates FDA to establish *active surveillance system* for monitoring drugs using electronic healthcare data
- Through the Sentinel Initiative, FDA aims to assess the post-marketing safety of approved medical products



History of the Sentinel Initiative

Sentinel data partners

- 1. Aetna, a CVS Health company
- Duke University School of Medicine: Department of Population Health Sciences (Medicare Fee-for-Service data)
- 3. Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute
- 4. HCA Healthcare
- HealthCore, Inc. (Anthem, Inc. data)
- 6. HealthPartners Institute
- Humana, Inc.
- 8. Kaiser Permanente Colorado Institute for Health Research
- 9. Kaiser Permanente Hawaii Center for Integrated Health Care Research
- 10. Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.
- 11. Kaiser Permanente Northwest Center for Health Research
- 12. Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute
- 13. Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- 14. Optum (OptumInsight Life Sciences Inc. and Optum Labs®)
- 15. Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Department of Health Policy (Tennessee Medicaid data)

Sentinel distributed database

- 351.8 million unique patient identifiers (2000-2020)*
- **70.6 million members** currently accruing new data
- **14.8 billion** pharmacy dispensings
- **13.8 billion** unique medical encounters

Data needs for generating decision-grade evidence regarding medication outcomes

- To support causal conclusions regarding medication outcomes, establishing a clear temporal sequence of event based on data from sources with near complete longitudinal capture is imperative
- *Health insurance claims* data provide comprehensive capture of outpatient pharmacy dispensing records, medical encounters, and hospitalizations during well-defined periods of health plan enrollment
- Most *EHR sources* in the US lack the ability to capture data when individuals receive care outside of the contributing healthcare systems



Data needs for generating decision-grade evidence regarding medication outcomes



Linkage of insurance claims with electronic health records can address these limitations

Challenges in developing a robust evidence generation framework utilizing real-world data

Development of a sustainable infrastructure containing standing linkage between insurance claims and EHRs to support real time querying

Envisioning a framework based on sound causal inference principles and state-of-the art epidemiologic methods to generate regulatory decision-grade evidence generation

Outlining principles of transparent communication to increase confidence in results generated using real-world data

Sentinel innovation center

Data infrastructure	Feature engineering
10+ million people + EHR Claims	• Emerging methods including machine learning and scalable automated natural language processing (NLP) approaches to enable computable phenotyping from unstructured EHR data
Causal inference	Detection analytics
• Methodologic research to address specific challenges when using EHRs such as approaches to handle missing data, calibration methods for enhanced confounding adjustment	Development of signal detection approaches to account for and leverage differences in data content and structure of EHRs

Initiatives

Vision

A query-ready, quality-checked distributed data network containing EHR for at least 10 million lives with reusable analysis tools

Year 1