



US Deprescribing Research Network

Advancing Research to Optimize Medication Use Among Older Adults

Request for Applications for a Collaborating Site for Data Harmonization Workgroup

Summary

The U.S. Deprescribing Research Network is a collaborative research network that aims to support investigators and research studying deprescribing for older adults. Currently, 4 healthcare systems are going to participate in a workgroup to demonstrate approaches to using routinely available electronic health data in trials of deprescribing. We are seeking a 5th site to join this workgroup. In this 24-month project, sites will explore existing electronic health data to implement key measures needed for deprescribing studies. We hope this additional site could represent a diverse older adult population, including diverse racial or ethnic groups, people who are economically disadvantaged, or other groups that are often underrepresented in research. This work will provide “proof of concept” demonstrating ways that key measures can be operationalized across different health systems and result in a guide to support multisite collaborations in deprescribing research.

Description of Data Harmonization Activity

For 24 months, 5 sites will collaborate to operationalize and implement measures relevant to deprescribing studies using electronic health records (EHR) data. There will be no primary data collection. Key activities include:

- (1) Summarize availability of data for key areas (e.g., demographics, diagnoses), including harmonization with common data models and completeness of data for the population included;
- (2) Implement and operationalize variables identified as essential deprescribing measures by a prior USDEN workgroup;
- (3) Produce a “waterfall” diagram showing application of inclusion/exclusion criteria for a hypothetical deprescribing trial;
- (4) Describe frequencies of key variables for a representative cohort of older adults; and
- (5) Demonstrate the diversity of older adults and opportunities to implement deprescribing.

We seek one additional site to join four that are currently participating: Kaiser Permanente Washington (lead: Dr. Sascha Dublin), Kaiser Permanente Colorado (lead: Dr. Elizabeth Bayliss), the Durham Veteran’s Administration Health System (lead: Dr. Matt Maciejewski), and Duke University (lead: Dr. S. Nicole Hastings). Dr. Dublin will lead the workgroup.

Funding available: The funding available for this activity is \$70,000 in direct costs for 24 months beginning January 15, 2021.

Benefits to participating sites:

- Gain experience using EHR data to implement key measures related to deprescribing;
- Generate data tables that can be used in future grant proposals
- Develop readiness to lead or collaborate on multisite clinical trials of deprescribing
- Build relationships with 4 other sites interested in future collaboration
- Elevate your profile and reputation as a leader in deprescribing research

- Inform future data infrastructure development necessary for deprescribing studies.

Requirements to participate:

- Access to electronic health data including demographics, diagnoses, utilization, and prescription or medication dispensing data
- Proven experience accessing and using these data for research
- The ability to at some future date carry out an intervention that could impact care for the population included in those electronic health data
- A desire to lead or collaborate on deprescribing studies in the future

Application Requirements, Components, Format

- Narrative Summary: Please provide a narrative summary of up to 2 pages including the following:
 - 1) Principal Investigator's level of interest in conducting deprescribing research, and topics of particular interest;
 - 2) PI's relevant experience, including prior use of EHR data for research that demonstrates the ability to conduct the planned work;
 - 3) Characteristics of your healthcare system and population, particularly any characteristics that demonstrate diversity of the included population;
 - 4) Brief description of your site's EHR infrastructure, including storage or extraction capabilities and use of any common data models;
 - 5) Description of investigators at your site other than the PI interested in deprescribing research; and
 - 6) A short budget paragraph describing how you would spend the support. Please include your site's indirect rate.

Formatting: 2 pages in length, ½" margins, 11-point Arial font. A reference list does not count toward the page limit.

- Biosketch or CV for the Principal Investigator. NIH format desirable but not required
- Prior Publications: 2 publications demonstrating your ability to access and use your institution's electronic health data for research
- **Due date is September 25, 2020, 11:59 PM (PST).** Submit materials as one PDF via our website: <https://deprescribingresearch.org/data-harmonization-working-group-collaborating-site-opportunity/>
- If you have questions, please email: admin@deprescribingresearch.org

Criteria on which applications will be judged

- Proven ability to access, extract, and utilize electronic health data for research
- Principal Investigator's desire to lead or collaborate on future deprescribing studies
- Diversity of the site population, e.g. in terms of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or other characteristics that are often underrepresented in research studies.
- Engagement of investigators at the site interested in participating in deprescribing studies

Timeline

Applications due: September 25, 2020, **11:59 PM (PST)**.

Telephone interviews: October 12-23, 2020

Site selected: November 1, 2020

Project start date: January 15, 2021

Eligibility Criteria:

a) Institutions

- i. Eligible institutions include U.S. colleges, universities, medical or nursing schools, healthcare systems with a strong research department, or other fiscally responsible organizations.
- ii. Prior to submitting an application, applicant organizations must be registered with System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>) and have a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering Systems (DUNS) number (<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).

b) Principal Investigator

- i. Applicants must hold a doctorate degree (MD, PhD, or equivalent)
- ii. Applicants must hold a faculty, research scientist, or equivalent position at an eligible institution by the start date of the award.
- iii. Applicants from under-represented racial and ethnic groups and individuals with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply