



Digital Health CRC: A Unique Research Partnership

Improving patient outcomes and controlling costs through collaborative research

HMS is the lead corporate partner in the Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (DHCRC), the largest digital healthcare research center in the world.

DHCRC facilitates analytics-based research using paid claims data to help tackle some of healthcare's biggest challenges.

Funded by the Australian government and other public and private sources, the DHCRC aims to develop solutions for urgent healthcare industry needs. The cooperative includes Australian and U.S. based government agencies, health plans, universities and tech companies.

How We Work

Each member of the coalition brings unique and deep expertise:

- The Digital Health CRC provides research tools, knowledge and guidance.
- The universities provide doctoral candidates in healthcare economics, data science, public health and other related fields who perform research as part of their studies.
- HMS facilitates the research data environment, consisting of a limited data set or fully de-identified data comprised of carefully curated paid claims.
- Health plans and government agencies provide advisory counsel on research projects.

Current Projects

The DHCRC has three active projects:

Opioid Crisis Project: Working with the DHCRC and HMS, Stanford University Medical Center is conducting research on prescribing practices and patient characteristics that lead to opioid addiction and abuse. Additionally, Stanford is focused on identifying effective opioid usage and treatment methods.

Readmissions Avoidance Project: Southern Methodist University is working with HMS and the DHCRC to identify readmission causes and prevention. This project researches specific patient care and engagement at discharge which result in better outcomes and reduced readmissions.

Geo-spatial Analysis Project: The University of Canberra's Australian Geospatial Health Lab (AGeoH-L) will calculate patient health risk based on geographic availability of medical and social services. This "Health Atlas" solution can be used by healthcare payers and providers to better address social determinants of health.

Secure and HIPAA-compliant Data

The research data environment for DHCRC projects is housed in a highly secure U.S. domestic instance of Amazon Web Services. HMS manages the data environment with the same strict data security requirements we use for all of our work.

The research database is populated with up to 10 years of paid claims, eligibility and associated data. This data is either fully de-identified or in the form of a limited data set, as specifically permitted and defined by HIPAA and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. All data has been de-identified following the criteria in the HIPAA Privacy Rule (45 C.F.R. 164.514).

**DHCRC
participants
benefit from the
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How We Partner with Medicaid Agencies and Health Plans

HMS government and health plan clients who enable use of their de-identified claims data for this research initiative are invited to join the DHCRC Advisory Board. Board members receive the benefit of the research, including accessing solutions that may help their member populations, and the opportunity to participate in the quarterly research progress reviews. Advisory Board members also provide feedback to doctoral student researchers and suggest future research topics. To date, several Medicaid agencies and Medicaid managed care plans have signed up to participate in the initiative.

About the DHCRC

In April 2018, the Australian Government announced its support for—and agreed to contribute funding to—the Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre. The Government's grant, covering a seven-year period, came into effect in July 2018. The DHCRC is the largest digital health research cooperative in the world, with funding from government, universities and businesses totaling over AU \$160 million. Our mission is to develop a unique, multidisciplinary, collaborative task force of research, clinical, industry, government and educational organizations to focus research and development in the healthcare space. Over 80 organizations, including health funds, health technology providers and 16 universities, have joined this research and development consortium. Find out more about the Digital Health CRC at digitalhealthcrc.com.

About HMS

HMS advances the healthcare system by helping healthcare organizations reduce costs and improve health outcomes. Through our industry-leading technology, analytics and engagement solutions, we save billions of dollars annually while helping consumers lead healthier lives. HMS provides a broad range of coordination of benefits, payment integrity, care management and member engagement solutions that help move the healthcare system forward.

Learn more about us at hms.com.



HMS® delivers healthcare technology, analytics and engagement solutions to help reduce costs, improve health outcomes and enhance member experience.