



Information for Data Partners

The Colorado Health Observation Regional Data Service (CHORDS) collects, analyzes and presents data from participating partners' electronic health records (EHRs) to monitor population health, target areas for intervention and conduct research. All data are securely exchanged by removing personally identifiable patient information.

Five metro Denver local public health agencies are working together on this groundbreaking project to use data from 11 health care partners to better address obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and mental health issues at the community level. CHORDS can help answer questions like *Which Aurora neighborhood has the highest rate of depression?* *Which Denver neighborhood has the highest levels of hypertension and lowest levels of hypertension control?* New community-based and clinic-based interventions, outreach programs and preventive services may be more successful because granular EHR data can identify specific communities or populations, measure factors affecting health and target interventions.

Your participation is the next step in achieving these goals.

How Does CHORDS Work?

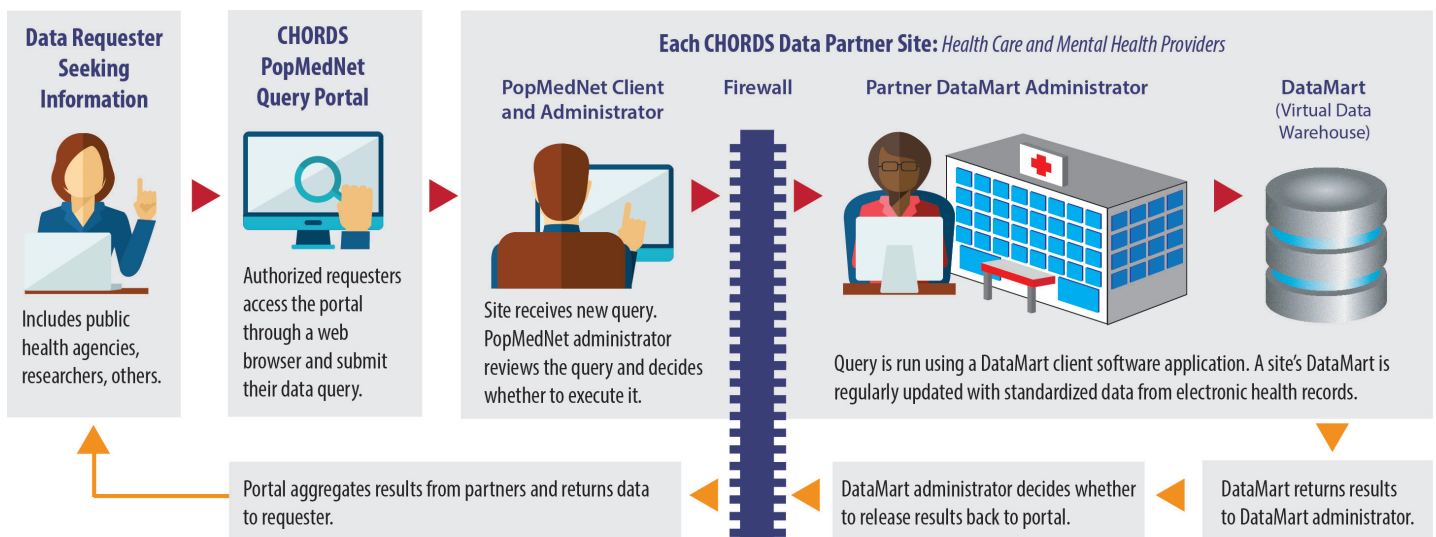
PopMedNet™ powers the data sharing in CHORDS. It is powered by a secure software application that requests and receives data from partner sites, including from mental health partners. Partners organize EHR data into a common data model (a 'virtual data warehouse' or VDW) and establish a connection to the CHORDS network using PopMedNet.

In this distributed network, data partners retain full control over their data; decide which data are available for querying; which queries are approved and executed; whether results are returned to requestors; and who is permitted to submit queries. CHORDS adheres to IRB, HIPAA and 42 CFR regulations, and exchanges data in accordance with established governance policies and procedures.

Why Become a Data Partner?

Electronic health records are a critical source of population health data. Sharing and using these data will improve our collective understanding of obesity, hypertension and other health issues. These data create a more comprehensive picture of health in communities

CHORDS Federated Query Overview



that can support work to target interventions, monitor progress and improve well-being.

In addition, contributing data to CHORDS may help providers meet the public health requirements for Meaningful Use Stage 2 (MU2) incentive payments. Hospitals and providers planning to meet the MU2 public health specialized registry objective must connect with their county representatives and register with the state. Assistance is available for testing, troubleshooting and obtaining an acknowledgement of participation for qualifying providers.

For more information, visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Meaningful Use webpage:

www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/categories/services-and-information/health/meaningful-use-health-records

Getting Started with CHORDS: Data Partner Expectations and Requirements

The process for contributing data includes completing governance agreements and technology activities. This often takes approximately **one year** to complete. Funding is provided to support these activities.

Completing governance activities involves **two to three meetings**, typically with a data partner's chief executive officer, chief information officer (or equivalent) and other leaders and CHORDS representatives, including your local public health agency director and the Colorado Health Institute, which is coordinating partner efforts.

To contribute data, a site must have a certified EHR and capacity to build and populate a VDW. Data partners can complete the technical activities themselves, contract with a vendor to complete them or choose a combined approach. CHORDS technical experts from Denver Public Health and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus assist data partners and/or their vendors in completing necessary tasks.

VDWs include the following patient data fields, if available:

- Demographics
- Social History
- Vital Signs
- Encounters
- Diagnoses
- Outpatient Pharmacy
- Laboratory Tests

Data partners will also conduct activities with CHORDS technical experts to assign a unique patient identifier — sometimes referred to as a common key — in each VDW to minimize patient duplication.

Contributing Data through CHORDS: Ongoing Requirements for Data Partners

Eleven health organizations already contribute data to CHORDS. Data partners play a key role in ensuring that CHORDS provides current, accurate data to inform health efforts. Some of the ongoing activities conducted by data partners include reviewing, running and approving queries from local public health partners; keeping VDW data current; updating CHORDS query software as needed; conducting quality assurance activities; participating in monthly data governance meetings; and working with local public health partners on interpreting and using data.

Time and resources associated with ongoing activities vary by data partner, typically involving **up to eight hours per month**. Data partners receive assistance and support from CHORDS technical experts for these activities. Funds are also provided to offset the costs.

Want to Know More?

Contact Sara Schmitt (schmitts@coloradohealthinstitute.org or 720.382.7081) or your local public health agency director for more information or to discuss how you can begin working as a CHORDS partner. You also can visit the CHORDS web page: <http://bit.ly/2dhKrQp>

