

Better Information for Enhanced Patient Care

What is DARTNet?

DARTNet is a rapidly growing collaboration of practice-based research networks that are working to build a national collection of electronic health record (EHR) data, claims data, and patient reported outcomes data. The networks seek to blend quality improvement, effectiveness and translational research with a data driven-learning system. The learning system includes advanced performance measures and assistance with the development and deployment of clinical decision support systems.

Seven such networks are members of DARTNet, representing more than 55 organizations and more than 3,000 clinicians throughout the United States.

DARTNet Health Information Databases

DARTNet federated networks are able to securely link electronic health information across the boundaries of individual practices, hospitals, or health organizations while maintaining patient privacy. The databases that are linked through these federated networks reside in multiple locations and organizations but are linked through an infrastructure so they can be searched as one large database.

The first and largest DARTNet federated network, called AcTIONet, was formed in 2007 with funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the nation's federal agency dedicated to research on healthcare quality, costs, outcomes, and patient safety.

DARTNet Learning Community

All DARTNet members can benefit from the Learning Community, which provides benchmarked data to practices to identify leaders in patient care. Leaders share their innovative approaches, effectively raising the bar for care in areas such as diabetes management, hypertension control, and chronic kidney disease.

How do DARTNet members differ?

DARTNet sub-networks are an evolving set of distributed networks that rely on the DARTNet technological infrastructure but which have individual goals, purposes, and governance.

- AcTIONet – the original DARTNet network, has primary care members throughout the U.S.
- CoNNECT – focuses on primary care practices that have onsite and integrated mental health providers
- CCPC – the Connecticut Center for Primary Care – focuses on primary care practices in Connecticut
- SAFTINet – a network of safety net organizations such as community health centers
- STARNet – primary care PBRN located in South Texas
- UNYNet – upstate New York PBRN
- WPRN – a network of primary care practices serving Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho



What Has DARTNet Done?

DARTNet has conducted a set of pilot studies to test the application, integrity, functionality, and security of the federated system. Topics include the comparative effectiveness and safety of oral medications for patients with type 2 diabetes, interventions for treating community acquired MRSA infections, and the comparative effectiveness and safety of therapies for major depression. DARTNet is currently assessing treatment of chronic kidney disease.

Practice performance reports are available for type 2 diabetes (hemoglobin A1c levels, lipids, microalbumin, and blood pressure), hypertension (blood pressure), chronic kidney disease (glomerular filtration rate), hyperlipidemia, and Pneumovax immunizations.

The DARTNet members' site is a growing portal for peer-to-peer interaction among members. The benchmarking reports are housed there, providing a venue for data-driven discussion and learning.

DARTNet's Mission:

- To improve health and healthcare through practice-based inquiry and collaborative learning.

DARTNet's Vision:

- To lead and support a data driven learning health care collaborative based on primary care practices engaged in translational research, collective inquiry, and continuous quality improvement.

➤ Care to join DARTNet or want to learn more?

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