

The HMO Research Network

Aiming to be the research partner of choice for those seeking to shape public health and health care delivery.

Visit us at www.hmoresearchnetwork.org.



HMO Research Network expectations of collaborative projects

- Follow HMORN policies and procedures for the review and submission of new collaborative proposals.
- Ensure a minimum of one HMORN investigator from each performance site is directly involved in all aspects of the research (e.g., design, conduct, dissemination).
- Allow appropriate review by sites contributing data.
- Follow HMORN policies and procedures regarding authorship and publications.

Comments or Questions

If you have specific comments or feedback about this pamphlet, please contact Ella Thompson at Thompson.e@ghc.org.



The HMO Research Network

Who we are and what we offer

The HMO Research Network (HMORN) is a consortium of 15 U.S. health care delivery systems with integrated research divisions, offering a geographically diverse sample of population-based health care for more than 11 million U.S. citizens.

The HMORN's primary goal is to transform health care practice through population-based research to improve the health and health care of broad populations. We accomplish this by:

- fostering research collaborations
- enhancing awareness of research interests, resources, and capabilities of the member research centers
- sharing methodologies, best practices, and consultative expertise
- leveraging the HMORN's strengths

HMO Research Network collaborations offer the ability to “close the loop” between research and clinical care.

All 15 HMORN research centers are committed to public domain research that advances population health. Each integrated delivery system is a private entity that provides comprehensive health services (e.g., primary prevention to end-of-life care) to commercially insured individuals, as well as those insured via Medicare, Medicaid, state-specific gap programs, and other financial arrangements. Thus, our research addresses clinical and health policy questions relevant to every market segment through which insured Americans receive health care, but is most generalizable to insured individuals.

HMORN members have extraordinary administrative and clinical data resources to support research, including comprehensive electronic medical records and robust disease-specific registries for multiple key health behaviors and chronic conditions (e.g., coronary heart disease, heart failure, diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia). These systems help us track therapies delivered, identify factors associated with differential treatments, and determine the consequences of adoption or non-adoption of therapies within “real world” patient populations.

The Members of the HMO Research Network

Research Center and location	Parent organization(s)	Year center began
Center for Health Services Research Detroit, MI	Henry Ford Health System Health Alliance Plan	1977
Department of Research & Evaluation Pasadena, CA	Kaiser Permanente Southern California	1975
Geisinger Center for Health Research Danville, PA	Geisinger Health System	2003
Group Health Research Institute Seattle, WA	Group Health Cooperative	1983
Harvard Medical School Department of Ambulatory Care & Prevention Boston, MA	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care	1969
HealthPartners Research Foundation Minneapolis, MN	HealthPartners	1989
Kaiser Division of Research Oakland, CA	Kaiser Permanente Northern California	1961
Kaiser Institute for Health Research Denver, CO	Kaiser Permanente Colorado	1987
Lovelace Clinic Foundation Albuquerque, NM	Lovelace Health Systems	1990
Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation Marshfield, WI	Marshfield Clinic Security Health Plan of Wisconsin	1959
Meyers Primary Care Institute Worcester, Ma	Fallon Community Health Plan, Fallon Foundation, University of Massachusetts Medical School	1996
Scott & White Health Care Division of Research. Temple, Texas	Scott & White Health Plan	1982
The Center for Health Research-Northwest Portland, OR	Kaiser Permanente Northwest	1964
The Center for Health Research-Hawaii Honolulu, HI	Kaiser Permanente Hawaii	1991
The Center for Health Research-Southeast Atlanta, GA	Kaiser Permanente Georgia	1998

Center for Health Services Research

[Center for Health Services Research \(CHSR\)](#) is one of several distinct research centers within Henry Ford Health System, an integrated health care system serving more than 800,000 patients and health plan members in Southeast Michigan. CHSR's mission is to investigate ways to improve the quality, efficiency, and equity of health care. Approximately 35% of the HFHS patient population is African American, creating special opportunities for research and quality improvement in the area of health care disparities.

Department of Research & Evaluation, Kaiser Permanente Southern California

[The Department of Research & Evaluation \(R&E\)](#) is the research unit of Kaiser Permanente Southern California, an integrated health care system serving more than 3.2 million members in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and surrounding counties. R&E's mission is to initiate and conduct high-quality, innovative public-sector health services, epidemiologic, behavioral, and clinical research that has a demonstrable positive impact on the health and well-being of its members and the general population. The investigators in R&E come from a variety of disciplines and all are dedicated to improving the health of the diverse membership.

Geisinger Center for Health Research

[Geisinger Center for Health Research \(GCHR\)](#) is a division of the Geisinger Health System (GHS), which includes the Geisinger Clinic, a multispecialty group practice that provides care to 450,000 primary care and 800,000 specialty care patients, and the Geisinger Health Plan, a 220,000 member network-model HMO. GHS serves patients in 40 counties of Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania. GCHR focuses on health services, epidemiological, and genetics research. GCHR has a well-developed collaborative relationship with both ambulatory and inpatient clinical practices, facilitating the rapid translation of new models of care into routine clinical practice. GCHR also works closely with the Weis Center (Geisinger's basic science research Center) on system level biobanking (i.e., DNA, serum, tissue) and molecular epidemiologic research.

Group Health Research Institute

[Group Health Research Institute \(GHRI\)](#), formerly Group Health Center for Health Studies is the research department of Group Health Cooperative, an integrated health care system serving more than 500,000 members in Washington State. GHRI research supports Group Health's mission to "transform health care" by exploring innovation in the authentic world of population-based care, and finding evidence that matters to everyday lives. In addition to the HMO Research Network, GHRI research partners include the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System, and the University of Washington.

Harvard Medical School Department of Ambulatory Care and Prevention

The [Department of Ambulatory Care and Prevention \(DACP\)](#) is the nation's only medical school appointing department co-sponsored by a health plan. Harvard Pilgrim Health Care is responsible for the care of 1.1 million individuals in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. Examples of the department's research strengths include child health, obesity and its prevention, drug policy (domestic and international), safety and effectiveness of drugs and vaccines, medical ethics, diffusion of electronic medical records, and population-based systems for monitoring infectious diseases. In teaching, the department leads Harvard Medical School's Center for Population Health Education and its Division of Primary Care; it also sponsors a primary care residency, as well as graduate and post-graduate fellows.

HealthPartners Research Foundation

[HealthPartners Research Foundation \(HPRF\)](#) supports research activities throughout HealthPartners, an integrated health care system serving more than 916,000 medical and dental members in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area. HPRF conducts research that improves the health of HealthPartners members and the community. HPRF is positioned at the junction of research and practice facilitating the optimization of health and healthcare

Kaiser Division of Research

[Kaiser Division of Research \(DOR\)](#) is the research department of Kaiser Permanente Northern California, an integrated healthcare system serving more than 3.4 million members in Sacramento and the Bay Area. DOR research seeks to understand the determinants of illness and well being and to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care for Kaiser Permanente members and society at large. The Division of Research offers expertise in health services research, clinical trials, epidemiology, genetics/pharmacogenetics, pharmacoepidemiology, sociology, qualitative research, medical informatics, and quality measurement and improvement.

Kaiser Institute for Health Research

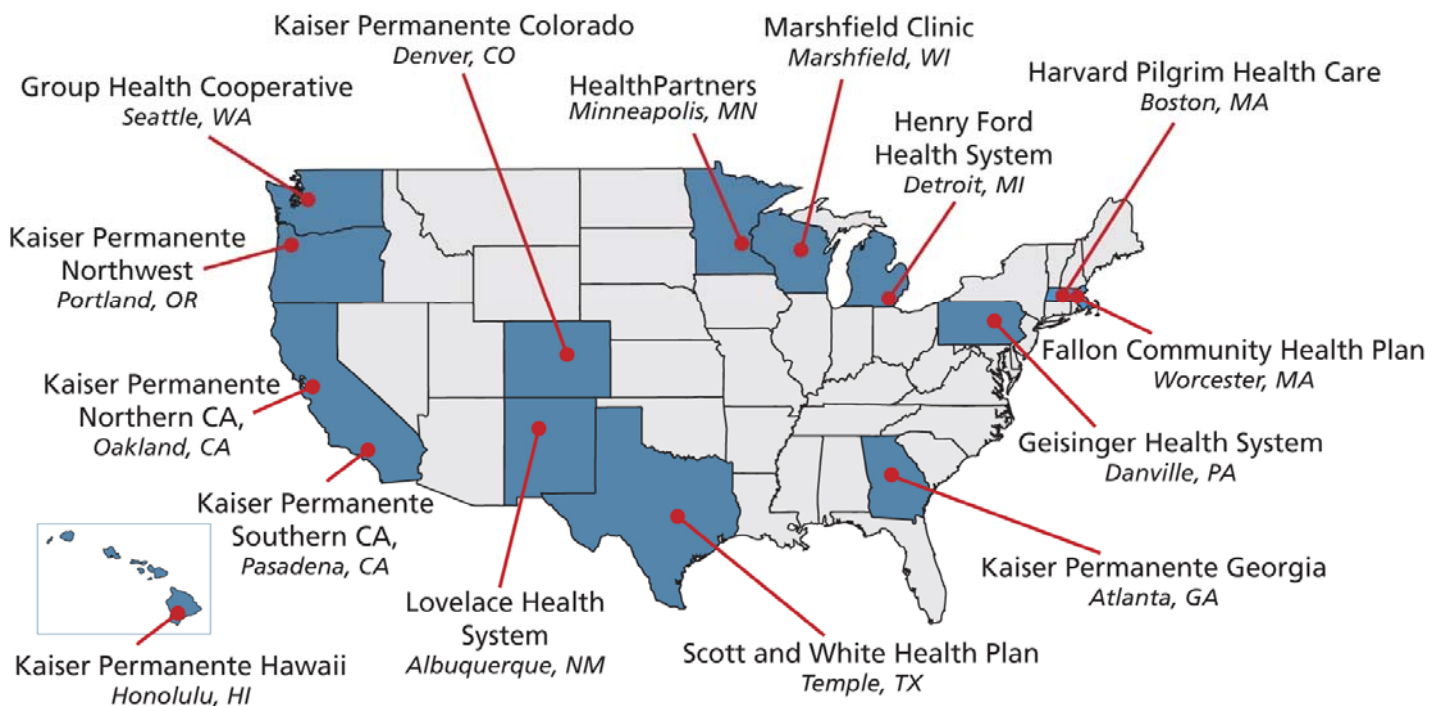
[Kaiser Institute for Health Research \(IHR\)](#) is the research department of Kaiser Permanente Colorado, an integrated health care system serving 475,000 members in the Denver-Boulder-Colorado Springs metropolitan area. IHR's mission is to develop, conduct and translate high quality research into practice and

to promote evidence-based practices and service-oriented, cost-effective medical care. Working within an integrated delivery system enables IHR investigators and staff to evaluate innovative models of care, conduct epidemiologic and outcomes studies, and participate in clinical trials important to our members and other populations.

Lovelace Clinic Foundation

[Lovelace Clinic Foundation \(LCF\)](#) is an independent health services research institute affiliated with Lovelace Health System, an integrated health care system based in Albuquerque, New Mexico that serves approximately 200,000 members of diverse ethnic backgrounds (nearly 40% of the Lovelace Health Plan population is Hispanic). LCF's research focuses on developing, implementing and evaluating interventions to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care. In recent years, LCF has expanded its research beyond the Lovelace Health System to conduct community-wide research initiatives, including the development and evaluation of a statewide health information exchange network.

HMO Research Network Members



Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation

[Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation \(MCRF\)](#) is the research division of Marshfield Clinic, the largest private group medical practice in Wisconsin with 766 physicians and 41 clinical centers. MCRF's mission is to discover and communicate scientific knowledge that substantially improves human health and well being. With research centers in clinical research, human genetics, epidemiology, biomedical informatics, and rural health and safety, MCRF provides research administration and support to 30 scientists and 180 clinician investigators. Capabilities are further strengthened by the Marshfield Epidemiologic Study Area and Personalized Medicine cohorts, and collaboration with Security Health Plan of Wisconsin, a 147,000 member HMO sponsored by Marshfield Clinic.

Meyers Primary Care Institute

[Meyers Primary Care Institute \(MPCI\)](#) is affiliated with Fallon Community Health Plan, which serves 200,000 members throughout Massachusetts, and in 2007 was rated by *US News and World Report* as having the nation's top Medicare and Medicaid Plans. The Institute's mission is to promote primary care practice and population health through innovative research and educational initiatives. MPCI bridges the interests of three sponsoring institutions: Fallon Community Health Plan, Fallon Clinic, and University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Scott and White Division of Research & Education

[Scott and White Division of Research and Education](#) is affiliated with Scott & White (S&W), a health plan serving approximately 200,000 members in 18 counties of Central Texas, including a large rural area. Research is an important part of the S&W mission "to provide personalized, comprehensive, high-quality health care enhanced by medical education and research." S&W is 25 miles from the largest active duty military installation in the free world, with a high concentration of military families with specific health concerns.

The Center for Health Research, Kaiser Permanente

[The Center for Health Research \(TCHR\)](#) is a single research center that spans three regions of Kaiser Permanente: Northwest (KPNW), Georgia (KPG), and Hawaii (KPH). TCHR tackles the issues of health and health care from the conceptual to the practical with a multidisciplinary program of public health research within diverse populations.

Center for Health Research-Northwest (CHR-NW) conducts research within KPNW's integrated health care system, which serves about 460,000 members in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington. CHR-NW is a multidisciplinary institution whose researchers are experts at using KPNW's comprehensive data systems to conduct research.

Center for Health Research-Hawaii (CHR-H) conducts research within KPH's integrated health care system, which serves about 230,000 members throughout Hawaii. TCHR's Hawaii site gives investigators and collaborators access to the most ethnically diverse population in the United States.

Center for Health Research-Southeast (CHR-SE) conducts research within KPG's integrated health care system, which serves about 265,000 members throughout Georgia. CHR-SE engages in research on health services, chronic disease, and vaccines and pharmaceuticals.

HMORN research includes

- ✓ advanced biostatistics
- ✓ behavioral & mental health
- ✓ cancer (surveillance & care)
- ✓ complementary & alternative medicine
- ✓ dental research
- ✓ epidemiology
- ✓ genomic research
- ✓ health informatics
- ✓ health services
- ✓ health economics
- ✓ infectious & chronic disease surveillance
- ✓ pharmaco-epidemiology
- ✓ pharmaco-economics
- ✓ primary & secondary prevention
- ✓ systems change
- ✓ organizational behavior

Large HMO Research Network Collaborative Projects

HMORN collaboration	# sites	Year funded	Funding agency
Cancer Care Outcomes Research and Surveillance Consortium (CanCORS)	5	2002	NCI
Cancer Research Network (CRN)	14	1998	NCI
Cardiovascular Research Network (CVRN)	14	2007	NHLBI
Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERT)	13	2000	AHRQ
Coordinated Clinical Studies Network (CCSN)	10	2004	NCRR
Developing Evidence to Improve Decisions about Effectiveness (DEcIDE) Network	15	2005	AHRQ
FDA Epidemiologic Studies of Adverse Effects of Marketed Drugs	10	2005	FDA
Integrated Delivery System Research Networks (IDSRN)	10	2000	AHRQ
Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD)	8	1990	CDC

Cancer Care Outcomes Research and Surveillance Consortium (CanCORS)

[CanCORS](#) is a national study of the patterns of treatment, decision-making, and outcomes for lung and colorectal cancers. The HMORN's Cancer Research Network (CRN) was funded as a CanCORS primary data collection and research site in 2002 by NCI.

Five HMORN sites participate in CanCORS, and all have completed baseline data collection and achieved recruitment targets. The CRN has several structural aspects that enhance its contributions to CanCORS, including natural ties to patients; access to accurate demographic, contact, and medical information before contacting participants; and the cooperation and strong support of our medical groups in encouraging patients to join the study.

Among the aims, CanCORS is investigating racial, ethnic and socioeconomic differences in cancer care, along with differences by age group.

Cancer Research Network (CRN)

[The CRN](#) was formed to use the unique HMORN environment as a laboratory for increasing the effectiveness of preventive, curative and supportive interventions for major cancers through a program of collaborative research for cancer prevention and control. Funded by NCI in 1998, the CRN is currently in its third funding cycle.

The CRN is a mature collaboration of 14 HMORN sites. Over the past decade, the CRN has carefully developed multiple strategies to facilitate the collaborative research process, from budget development to manuscript preparation.

The CRN has catalyzed nearly four dozen research projects that have generated more than \$80 million in research support. Pivotal research findings are shaping cancer care, particularly in the areas of breast cancer screening, treatment of older women with breast cancer, and behavior change strategies for prevention.

Cardiovascular Research Network (CVRN)

The CVRN will establish a framework to begin to answer critical questions about contemporary cardiovascular epidemiology, optimal management, and associated clinical outcomes within large community-based populations where most clinical care is delivered. The CVRN is a 5-year grant funded in 2007 by NHLBI.

The CVRN includes 14 HMORN sites and leverages the broad cardiovascular expertise, diverse health plans and populations, and integrated data systems of the HMORN.

The CVRN will initially conduct studies about the recognition, treatment, and control of hypertension; control and persistence of warfarin and associated outcomes in atrial fibrillation and venous thromboembolic disease; and the use, outcomes, and costs of implantable cardioverter defibrillators for primary prevention.

Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERT)

The mission of the [CERT](#) is to advance population health through acquisition and widespread dissemination of knowledge about best therapeutics practices. The CERT was funded by AHRQ in 2000 and is now in its 3rd funding cycle.

The HMORN CERT is made up of 13 sites and is one of several created in response to a 1999 congressional mandate. The CERT takes advantage of research and dissemination opportunities afforded by HMORN members' defined populations, large provider groups, and unique data sources.

Since 2000, the HMORN CERT has received more than \$30 million in grants from AHRQ, NIH, FDA, and industry supporting over 30 core multi-center studies.

Coordinated Clinical Studies Network (CCSN)

CCSN's main objective over the 3 year funding period was to streamline the multi-site research process by building infrastructure and creating Network-wide resources that support collaboration. The CCSN was funded in 2004 by NCRN as part of the NIH Roadmap's "Re-engineering" initiative.

All 15 HMORN sites participated in the CCSN in some way. The Network's efforts have culminated in the comprehensive web-based '[Collaboration Toolkit](#)' – an interactive guide with links to more than 40 tools and resources designed to reduce the administrative, scientific and operational complexities of multi-site research projects.

Among the CCSN's many achievements was pilot testing and implementing a simplified model for multi-site IRB review of data only studies.

Developing Evidence to Improve Decisions about Effectiveness (DEcIDE) Network

[The DEcIDE Network](#) focuses primarily on comparative effectiveness of therapies to generate new knowledge quickly, with emphasis on areas of interest to CMS. The HMORN CERT was awarded a DEcIDE center contract in 2005 as part of AHRQ's Effective Health Care program, which offers 6-10 task orders per year.

The DEcIDE Network includes all 15 HMORN sites, and to date, has been awarded six DEcIDE task orders totaling over \$5 million.

The most recent award, a pilot to develop a Distributed Research Network to conduct population-based studies and safety surveillance, will advance the HMORN's ability to conduct multi-site study by leveraging existing infrastructure, such as the VDW, and prototyping a scalable distributed network.

Since 1993, HMORN members have collaborated on hundreds of peer-reviewed, public domain research projects.

FDA Epidemiologic Studies of Adverse Effects of Marketed Drugs

The FDA funded two HMORN-related groups when establishing research consortia in 2005 to provide rapid response information for potential serious adverse side effects linked to prescription drugs through efficient use of electronic databases.

The eight HMORN sites of the Center for Education in Research and Therapeutics (CERT) and the two HMORN sites making up the Kaiser Permanente California Pharmacoepidemiology Group (KPCPG) participate in this FDA program. This work illustrates the capacity of the HMORN to carry out pharmacoepidemiological and pharmacovigilance studies by working with the FDA on post-marketing safety surveillance activities in support of the agency's regulatory mission.

Current FDA work includes a study of ADHD medications and the risk of cardiovascular disease in adults and a project assessing medication use during pregnancy and potential birth outcomes.

Integrated Delivery System Research Networks (IDSRN)

The [IDSRN](#) was funded by AHRQ in 2000 to capitalize on the research capacity of and opportunities within integrated delivery systems. The network created, supported, and disseminated scientific evidence about what works and what does not work in terms of data and measurement systems and organizational

"best practices" related to care delivery and research diffusion.

Since 2000, 10 HMORN members conducted more than 10 IDSRN studies generating more than \$2 million in research funding.

The IDSRN program required participants to respond to Requests for Proposals and complete research objectives within narrow time windows. This process highlighted the HMORN's ability to rapidly respond to funding opportunities and quickly reach consensus in planning proposals.

Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD)

The Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), created by the CDC in 1990, is the primary mechanism for population-based evaluations of vaccine safety in the United States. VSD activities are supported by CDC-funded contracts between VSD HMOs and America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP). The current CDC-AHIP contract period is 2002-2012.

The VSD brings together scientific expertise and leadership from investigators and staff at eight HMORN research centers. Data from the HMOs' administrative data systems, patient medical records and, occasionally, patient interviews are linked and used for carefully planned analyses.

In recent years, the VSD has increasingly focused on timely assessments of hypotheses arising from reports to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System and safety issues potentially associated with immunization schedule changes and newly licensed vaccines.

**Successful collaboration
is the foundation of our Network.**

Find out more at www.hmoresearchnetwork.org,
and explore our new tools designed to
streamline multi-site research.

*Click on **member resources** to get started!*

Contact information for individual HMO Research Network members

Geisinger Health System

Center for Health Research & Rural Advocacy
100 North Academy Avenue
Danville, PA 17822-3003
www.geisinger.org/professionals/research/

Group Health Cooperative

Group Health Research Institute
1730 Minor Avenue, Suite 1600
Seattle, WA 98101
www.grouphealthresearchinstitute.org

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

Department of Ambulatory Care and Prevention
133 Brookline Avenue, Sixth Floor
Boston, MA 02215
www.hms.harvard.edu/ambulatory/index.html

Health Partners Research Foundation

8100 34th Ave S, PO Box 1524
Minneapolis, MN 55440-1524
www.hprf.org

Henry Ford Health System - Health Alliance Plan

One Ford Place, Suite 3A
Detroit, MI
www.henryfordhealth.org

Kaiser Permanente Colorado

Institute for Health Research
10065 E. Harvard Avenue, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80237-8066
<http://kpco-ihr.org/>

Kaiser Permanente Georgia

The Center for Health Research-Southeast
3495 Piedmont Rd NE, Building 9
Atlanta, GA 30305
www.kpchr.org

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii

The Center for Health Research-Hawaii
501 Alakawa Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
www.kpchr.org

Kaiser Permanente Northern California

Division of Research
3505 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94611
www.dor.kaiser.org

Kaiser Permanente Northwest

The Center for Health Research-Northwest
3800 North Interstate Avenue
Portland, OR 97227
www.kpchr.org

Kaiser Permanente Southern California

393 E. Walnut Street/991
Pasadena, A 91188
www.kp.org/research

Lovelace Clinic Foundation

2309 Renard Place SE, Suite 103
Albuquerque, NM 87106
www.lcfresearch.org

Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation/ Security Health Plan of Wisconsin

1000 North Oak Avenue
Marshfield, WI 54449
www.marshfieldclinic.org/research

Meyers Primary Care Institute/ Fallon Community Health Plan, Fallon Foundation, and University of Massachusetts Medical School

630 Plantation Street
Worcester, MA 01605
www.umassmed.edu/meyers

Scott & White Health Plan

Division of Research
2401 South 31st Street
Temple, TX 76508
www.sw.org/web/SW/researchAndEducation/iwcontent/public/research/en_us/html/research.html

