

Clinical Research Assistance for Investigator-initiated studies

I need help with refining the question and/or designing the study, evaluating feasibility, or a letter of support for my grant

Question

1

Go to AbSPORU (absporu.ca) and submit Service Application - AbSPORU

I want to do a primary data collection study

Go to EPICORE (epicore.ualberta.ca)

Primary Data

2

Secondary Use of Data

3

I want to do a study using Alberta health care (EMR or Administrative) data – including linking to an external cohort
Go to AbSPORU (absporu.ca) and submit Request for Data Services

I want to do a study using data from other provinces, CIHI, or StatsCan:
Go to www.hdrn.ca/en/dash

AI Study

4

I want to deploy artificial intelligence tools in the study

Contact AIHealthHub@ualberta.ca

Footnotes:

- This flow chart is for research projects initiated by investigators (not Quality Improvement or Quality Assurance projects nor industry-initiated studies). Steps 2 and 3 require HREB approval before approaching the listed organizations for assistance and assistance is provided on a cost-recovery basis but if you are a member of a UofA research institute (such as WCHRI, CVRI, the Alberta Primary Care Research Network, the Canadian VIGOUR Centre) or a national SPOR-funded entity (such as Diabetes Action Canada, Can-Solve CKD, IMAGINE, Child-Bright, the Chronic Pain Network, or ACCESS Open Minds) then some of the cost-recovery may be subsidized by those organizations.
- Step 1: While HREB approval is not required for step 1, investigators should have a one pager outlining the objectives for the planned study and a brief rationale before contacting for assistance. For letters of support (including budget estimates), requests should be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the institutional deadline.
- Step 2: Primary data Studies are those in which data is collected prospectively for the specific purpose of answering your research question and can be qualitative, quantitative, or mixed, and this category includes clinical registries/cohorts. EPICORE offers assistance with primary data study design, case report form design, database creation, study management and implementation, data management, and biostatistics for primary data studies.
- Step 3: Secondary use of data Studies are those in which existing health datasets (any of the 68 administrative health datasets held by Alberta Health Shared Services, including EMR such as ConnectCare) are used to answer a research question. AbSPORU offers assistance with study design, assessment of sample size and study feasibility, data extraction/linkage/cleaning and analyses. While most secondary use data studies use de-identified data, if HREB approval and consents are in place, AbSPORU can link external datasets (including RCT participants in Alberta) with the 68 health datasets and conduct analyses.
- Step 3: If you want to conduct an analysis of datasets outside of Alberta, please see www.hdrn.ca/en/dash for instructions/assistance on accessing other provincial and/or CIHI datasets.
- Step 4: AI Studies are those that deploy artificial intelligence tools to conduct the study or to analyze data holdings.