

Real world **data** (RWD) in medicine is data derived from a number of sources that are associated with outcomes in a heterogeneous patient population in **real-world** settings, such as patient **surveys**, **clinical trials**, and observational cohort studies.

Real-world data refer to **observational** data as opposed to data gathered in an experimental setting such as a **randomized controlled trial** (RCT). They are derived from **electronic health records** (EHRs), claims and billing activities, product and disease registries, etc.

When working with RWD, the goal is often to generate evidence. The term real world evidence (RWE) is highly related to RWD. RWE is defined by FDA as “clinical evidence regarding the usage and potential benefits or risks of a medical product derived from analysis of RWD”

Real-world data are the data relating to patient health status and/or the delivery of health care routinely collected from a variety of sources.

Real-world data (RWD) applications in healthcare that support learning health systems and pragmatic clinical trials are gaining momentum, largely due to legislation supporting real-world evidence (RWE) for drug approvals. Clinical notes are thought to be the cornerstone of RWD applications, particularly for conditions with limited effective treatments, extrapolation of treatments from other conditions, or heterogenous disease biology and clinical phenotypes.

Recent findings: Here, we discuss current issues in applying RWD captured at the point-of-care and provide a framework for clinicians to engage in RWD collection. To achieve clinically meaningful results, RWD must be reliably captured using consistent terminology in the description of our patients. RWD complements traditional clinical trials and research by informing the generalizability of results, generating new hypotheses, and creating a large data network for scientific discovery. Effective clinician engagement in the development of RWD applications is necessary for continued progress in the field <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Snyder JM, Pawloski JA, Poisson LM. Developing Real-world Evidence-Ready Datasets: Time for Clinician Engagement. Curr Oncol Rep. 2020 Apr 16;22(5):45. doi: 10.1007/s11912-020-00904-z. PMID: 32297007.

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