

Global digital health leaders propose the CODE-EHR framework to enhance research using real-world data

1 What are Electronic Health Records (EHR)?

EHR are patient charts in a digital format. They allow important patient information to be stored, updated and shared by healthcare and benefit providers. With rapidly developing technology, there is now the scope for clinical research using EHR data to improve patient care and health outcomes.



2 What is the issue of current EHR use?

Digital health records are confusing for most researchers, with varying access to a myriad of different coding systems and classifications, and considerable differences across (and within) countries. Linkage of different health sources is often a core component of research based on structured healthcare data, and yet, this aspect is frequently overlooked when reporting such studies.



3 What is the Solution?



CODE-EHR checklist is designed to ensure that a common set of minimum standards are applied across all research using structured healthcare data.



To improve the design of studies, enhance transparency and develop a roadmap towards more robust and effective utilisation of healthcare data for research purposes.



Research using routinely collected structured healthcare data has the potential for major clinical impact but this requires a clear and transparent approach to describe data sources, linkage protocols, coding definitions, and validation of methods and results.

Access the CODE-EHR checklist now to aid research design and improve reporting for better dissemination:

www.escardio.org/bigdata