

Data Use Case Study: Salford Lung Study

Who: GlaxoSmithKline, North West e-Health, University of Manchester, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Salford, local GPs and pharmacists.

What: 4,000 patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 5,000 with asthma enrolled in a year-long study (subject to the usual regulatory and ethical requirements for traditional clinical trials).

Data Aspect: A linked database system was created using real-time, integrated data collected from a variety of resources, including Salford's E-Health records infrastructure which provides a single, integrated electronic patient records across primary and secondary care. This linked database also allows patients to be closely monitored to the minimum standards required for traditional clinical trials over the course of the study, but removes the need for 'artificial' interventions. It means patients are subject to minimal intrusion.

Benefit: Traditional randomised medical trials focus on the safety and efficacy of investigational medicines, and while highly valuable these studies are highly controlled and enrol a more selected patient population that is not always reflective of the population that would be prescribed the drug. This scheme allows a large, real world trial that would improve medicine development through understanding how medicines are used by patients and thus help decision makers evaluate the true value, benefits and potential at an earlier stage. This will help patients to access new medicines where appropriate.

Other: This is a global first for a large "real-world" study performed on pre-licence medicine across a large population in a single geographical location, and the researchers finding will enable healthcare decision makers to assess the medicine's potential at an earlier stage.

"We're delighted to be playing an integral role within this ground-breaking study. Our role is to develop and manage the e-Health technology that is key to providing rapid access to health data that can support clinical treatment decisions and patient management. The expertise and experience gained through this work will have long-term benefits for patients in Salford through more accurate and timely information about population health and healthcare."

Ken Cunningham, Chief Executive NorthWest e-Health

"GSK has over 40 years' experience in respiratory medicine development and the Salford Lung Study reflects our commitment to develop innovative medicines of real value that will benefit patients and healthcare systems. The Salford Lung Study is an excellent example of collaboration between industry, academia and the NHS and we're delighted to be working with the Salford healthcare community on this project. Our investment in this study reflects our commitment to the UK as a key life sciences research base."

Eddie Gray, President of GSK Pharmaceuticals Europe