

Health Policy NEWSLETTER

Department of Health Policy Forums

MedMining and Electronic Health Record Data

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Mr. Peters' presentation focused on the capabilities of MedMining, a Geisinger Health System (GHS) company that utilizes real-world electronic health record data to address specific health research questions. GHS, located in central Pennsylvania, was an early adopter of an electronic health record (EHR), having initiated its use in 1997. Over the course of the last decade, GHS' use of the EHR technology has been expanded to include data from its related outpatient practices. As a result, GHS has one of the most complete healthcare datasets in the country.

Most of the electronic data that has been used to conduct health care research consists of claims data, which is often incomplete and delayed while claims are processed. EHR-based data can provide a more complete picture – especially when it includes access to 10 years of longitudinal, episodic encounter data for both the ambulatory and inpatient setting. Information of this type can be particularly helpful in conducting specialized health care research about certain diseases, patient demographics, and treatments.