

Bronx RHIO Collaborates with Members on Research Projects

October 29, 2021

Bronx RHIO launched its Subcommittee on Research and Quality Improvement in 2019, and since then it has collaborated on eight research projects and a number of quality improvement projects. The Subcommittee includes representatives from a range of Bronx RHIO member organizations, including hospitals, FQHCs, IPAs, health departments, and CBOs. Any Bronx RHIO member organization can participate in the Subcommittee and submit research project proposals requesting Bronx RHIO data.

When a project is submitted for review, it is first reviewed internally by Bronx RHIO to ensure that the request is feasible, that the data being requested is reasonably complete and of good quality, and that the project aligns with the Bronx RHIO's mission and vision. A research project must also have IRB approval or an exemption, or it must be in the process of obtaining one. Once project details have been confirmed, Bronx RHIO's Clinical Director puts together an overview of the proposal to be reviewed and voted on in the next Subcommittee meeting.

During the Subcommittee's discussion of the project proposal, the Subcommittee considers potential impacts to Bronx RHIO data-contributing member organizations, to the population being researched, and to the New York City community as a whole. While the Subcommittee does not replicate the work of an IRB, it does consider the concerns and needs of Bronx RHIO's members as well as whether the project is suitable for the use of Bronx RHIO data.

Several projects that have been approved since the Subcommittee's inception have since been completed, and at least preliminary data has been shared for five studies. One completed project was led by the James J. Peters VA Medical Center investigating when and where veterans seek outside emergency services in order to reduce emergency department (ED) overuse and improve care transitions. Other projects currently in process include a Montefiore/Einstein study examining the healthcare utilization patterns of HIV at-risk patients and whether certain patterns of care are associated with increased PrEP uptake and HIV seroconversion; a DOHMH/NYU study examining the impact of the NYC DOHMH's Relay program on individuals with an opioid overdose-related ED visit; and a Montefiore/Einstein study examining the epidemiological risk factors impacting COVID-19 disease progression and mortality in the Bronx.

Bronx RHIO is proud of the work it has accomplished to date in applying its rich dataset for the purposes of healthcare research. All member organizations are encouraged to consider potential projects for which Bronx RHIO data would be useful. For more information, please reach out to information@bronxrhio.org.