



emis[®]



QResearch[®]

generating knowledge
to improve patient
care



The University of
Nottingham

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interoperable



safe &
secure



improves
patient care



ethical medical
research

GPs across the UK are helping to build a rich general practice database for ethical research.

The QResearch database automatically collects real-time data from EMIS systems across the country. The aim is to create a large volume database of quality primary care information for ethical medical research that improves patient care.

More than 600 practices using EMIS systems, representing around 12 million patients, regularly contribute to the database.

The data is used for a range of research projects, including detecting regional and national patterns of highly contagious diseases and other conditions. For example, QResearch data can be used to detect a national flu epidemic in a matter of hours.

QResearch is a non-profit making venture run by an academic research team at the University of Nottingham in collaboration with EMIS.

About the QResearch database

- It contains socio-economic details of each patient's postcode
- The data extracted contains no strong patient identifiers
- Patients can opt out
- The database is open to academic researchers with ethical committee approval
- The researchers are provided with patient or practice level data that is required to answer their research question – not the whole dataset
- Analyses are undertaken to demonstrate the accuracy and completeness of the data and are made available for morbidity analyses.

Projects using QResearch data

As well as long-term studies, QResearch is playing an important role in the day to day health of the nation. Services developed using QResearch data include:

QSurveillance[®] – a near real time surveillance scheme that will collect, analyse and report on infectious diseases, influenza related conditions, flu vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine uptake. QSurveillance can provide timely data in the face of emerging public health problems (e.g. gastroenteritis that could result from widespread flooding). It can also respond to chemical incidents, concerns about safety of medication or report in extreme weather conditions (e.g. during a heat wave) to help estimate the scale of the problem and plan a response.

QRisk2[®] – a new risk score for predicting cardiovascular disease, drawing on analysis of 15 years' real primary care data from the UK as opposed to traditional studies of a limited sample group.



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Get involved

All practices using EMIS LV are eligible to join the scheme, with the service extending to EMIS Web in the near future. PCS practices are able to join too - once they start streaming into EMIS Web, anonymised patient data can be added to the QResearch database.

To find out more about joining QResearch, visit www.qresearch.org

If you would like to take part please email julia.hippisley-cox@nottingham.ac.uk for instructions, quoting your EMIS CDB number.

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