



CARA
NETWORK

Collaborate

Analyse

Research

Audit

CARA Network - Information Sheet for GPs

What is the CARA Network?

CARA is a project set up to provide GPs with a platform to explore and visualise their practice data and compare this to the combined data from all other (anonymous) participating practices using interactive dashboards. The visualisations and comparisons can be used to generate audit reports.

Who is involved in the CARA Network?

This project is funded by the Health Research Board and is led by Professor Akke Vellinga, University College Dublin (School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science).

Why is the CARA Network set up?

The CARA Network will provide a structure to combine and analyse GP data, open access and other relevant patient data. The data infrastructure will provide easy access reports and basic visualisations in custom made dashboards in which data can be queried effortlessly. These dashboards will be developed with and for GPs, to support initiatives to improve antibiotic use, identify infection control opportunities or investigate associations.

This project will also provide GPs with the opportunity to generate custom made audit reports. Each GP practice will receive information on how they can use their own data and compare this to the combined results from all other practices (CARA dashboard). GPs can only identify their own practice through a two-step authentication process, but will not be able to identify any of the other participating practices.

How can I get involved in the CARA network?

By supporting the collection of irrevocably anonymised data from GP practices nationally. All GP practices will be invited to register and use CARAconnect to extract fully anonymised data. Data will be uploaded into a data model through secure, encrypted connections (via Healthmail) and displayed/visualized in CARA dashboards. The CARAconnect will facilitate the extraction of fully anonymous data including year of birth, gender, GMS status, chronic conditions, microbiological results and prescriptions for all patients.

An automatic mail will be generated and using the secure email server Healthmail, to send to us. More detailed instructions on this process can also be found on our website www.caranetwork.ie .

What about GDPR?

This research has been approved by the ICGP Research Ethics Committee. The data extracted by CARAconnect will be irrevocably anonymised before it will be uploaded. This data is not considered to be personal data as it cannot be linked to individual patients. As a result, explicit consent from patients is not required.

You can find more information at the following link:

https://www.dataprotection.ie/documents/guidance/Health_research.pdf

Do I have to take part?

No, you are not required to participate in the CARA network. You will register voluntarily, at your own initiative. You can withdraw participation at any time up until your data has been added to the overall database.

What are the benefits of taking part in this project?

This project will allow you to generate visualisations and audit reports through the CARA dashboard. Additionally, the data will allow researchers to explore associations between infections, prescribing and antibiotic resistance.

What are the risks of taking part in this project?

There are minimal risks involved with taking part in this project. As outlined, all data will be anonymous and it will not be possible to identify any patients from the dataset. Our website integrates Google Analytics to track engagement, performance and activities. This cannot be linked to your practice.

We will provide posters for your waiting room to inform patients of your participation in the CARA Network. If patients like to opt-out of their data being included in the extraction, they can let you know and provide an easy option to exclude this patient's data.

What will happen to the results of the research?

You will be able to use the data for your own benefit and use data visualisation for your own research. In the future, we aim to include options to add your own data to the CARA Network, to allow the evaluation of interventions or explore new areas.

In addition, our researchers will publish the results from their project in peer-reviewed academic journals, at national and international conferences as well as regular updates on our website and social media channels.

Any dissemination arising from the research will present data at aggregated and it will not be possible to identify individual patients or individual practices.

Where can I find more information?

If you would like more information on the study you can get in touch with our team via email on info@caranetwork.ie or by contacting the PI Prof Akke Vellinga @ akke.vellinga@ucd.ie.

Further information can also be found on our website www.caranetwork.ie or follow us on our social media pages for regular updates.



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