Efforts to vitalize the multi-institutional research network: dedicated support cases through forums and Tutorial

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Is this the first time you have submitted your work to be displayed at any OHDSI Symposium?
Yes ☐ ☒ No ☐ ☐

Abstract
To carry out the multi-center study with OMOP-CDM, the easiest way is to use platform called ‘ATLAS’. However, there are numerous users questioning about the structure of CDM and the functions of ATLAS. EvidNet is the one and only leading company who converts EMR to OMOP-CDM in Korea and operating Forum to reduce the users’ difficulties. The goal of this paper is to explore the cases which are posted on EvidNet forum and how it operates. EvidNet Forum is one of the ways to lower the entry barriers to global OHDSI.

Background
More than 60 major hospitals¹ have organized the Korean OHDSI, centering on large-scale national projects. EvidNet is responsible for CDM conversion and distributed research network construction based on this, and currently 20 hospitals Conversion to OMOP-CDM standard has been completed. Basically, various educational materials and forums are provided in global audiences. However, for the quick activation of the multi-centre research network, EvidNet collects institutional VoCs and conducts a forum to solve and support various difficulties and questions that are encountered in the research and implementation stage.

Characteristic of EvidNet Forum
EvidNet Forum was launched in January of this year and has received requests and research questions from users about CDM conversion and usage of ATLAS. After signing up forums, users can only read the postings of the organization to which they belong. When user leaves a post in the forums, the post assigned to the appropriate team and the team has responsibility to respond within 24 hours.
EvidNet Forum has five different categories: 1) R Technical Support, 2) ATLAS Technical Support, 3) ATLAS Usage support, 4) Feedernet inquiry, and 5) Others. The total number of inquiries for the 5 months after the forum opening was 69, and the number of inquiries and keywords for each type are shown in Figure 1.

ATLAS Technical Supports
- Experts of each team are actively providing solutions.
- If the solution cannot be drawn up internally then help from global OHDSI is considered.

OMOP-CDM & ATLAS usage supports by education
- Held education tutorials to help people who are struggling with research using OMOP-CDM and ATLAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDM conversion report session</th>
<th>District-specified tutorial</th>
<th>Conference tutorial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researcher at the target institution or hospital (Max 8)</td>
<td>Researchers in the certain region of Korea (Max 35)</td>
<td>Anyone-without restriction (Max 20)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum (time)</th>
<th>Introduce on CDM structure, platform(Feedernet), ATLAST tutorial. (~4 hrs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performed sessions (total n)</td>
<td>12/17, 1/23, 3/15, 3/25, 3/28, 4/5, 4/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total educated people (n)</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support additional mapping requests
- Requests for mapping the secondary derived variables (e.g. BMI and other variables from lab tests)
- Requests for specific data for certain research topics, and sequential application of them to the whole participating institutions’ CDM D8
- Second conversion or re- conversion happens every six months or when request received.

Discussion
Researchers are trying to carry out multi-center research with a variety of topics, but they have difficulties due to unfamiliar data formats and new research methods. As increasing demands of conduct diverse studies using CDM, and as a way to identify those needs, communicate with users are difficult. EvidNet forum grasp diverse needs of users through the forums, and able to identify the difficulties that researchers are currently experiencing. There are many organizations that accumulate CDM data aimed to global multi-center research, and EvidNet Forum is one of the ways to lower the entry barriers to global OHDSI. The features of the EvidNet Forum are not so different from the Global OHDSI Forum, but they are for those who are not familiar with CDM and evaluate the difficulty of using CDM. EvidNet Forum is a way to get to the global OHDSI community.
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Reference