

POSTER ABSTRACTS

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Web based RX and DX Counters

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Background: Much time and effort is spent in the early stages of a project determining feasibility. We developed user friendly Web interfaces to provide investigators access to counts based on Group Health Cooperative drug dispensing and diagnosis codes.

Methods: Group Health Cooperative operations data were summarized at the level of year for the variables of interest. These summarized data are stored in a database Microsoft SQL SERVER. The user chooses parameters using a web interface written in ASP.NET. These parameters are passed to a server running MS Internet Information Server (IIS). IIS runs a query on the appropriate database then passes the results back to the user.

Results: The tables produced are used to determine if we have a large enough sample size to do a study and are very valuable in the proposal writing phase. The tables are presented to the end user quickly since the underlying data are already partially summarized. The target audience for the tool was investigators and adoption by investigators has been variable. Investigators that use it like it a lot, but most do not use it. Programmers are more likely to use the tool than investigators.

Conclusions: The tool is very useful in the feasibility stage of a project. However, we need to pay more attention to the education of the potential users, so that the tool becomes integrated into the process of proposal conception and feasibility.