

Group Exercise

Step 1: Identify a general topic of research/evaluation interest

*Does anyone in the group have a question they are interested in evaluating locally at their own clinic?
Pick one to work on for purposes of this group exercise.*

Step 2: Pinpoint a specific research/evaluation question

Narrow it down from the general topic to as specific a question as you can get.

Step 3: Consider what types of information you would need to answer your question

Just think about it broadly / conceptually first (don't worry about specific variables in the EMR yet)

Step 4: Identify what relevant variables are available in your EMR

Even if it is not the exact variable you need, brainstorm related variables that could be used to construct the metric of interest.

Step 5: Map the EMR variables on to your research/evaluation question

See if you would have all the pieces of information (either directly or by creatively combining other variables) you need to answer the question.

Step 6: Consider how you would gain access to EMR data at your organization

Brainstorm some initial steps you could take to work toward accessing EMR data (see handout for tips)