

## **Collaborative National Networks Examining Comparative Effectiveness Trials (CoNECT)**

Principal Investigator: Benjamin F. Miller, PsyD  
Institution/Partners: University of Colorado; American Academy of Family Physicians; University of Vermont  
Project Period: 08/01/10 – 07/31/12  
Grant Number: R24 HS19462-01  
Data Description: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR34672.v1>

### **Infrastructure Description**

The Collaborative National Networks Examining Comparative Effectiveness Trials (CoNECT) combines the efforts of two existing practice-based research networks (PBRNs)—Collaborative Care Research Network (CCRN), which provides collaborative, integrated care to patients with mental health or substance abuse problems and physical conditions, and the Distributed Ambulatory Research and Therapeutics Network (DARTNet), which electronically mines electronic health record data across organizations to study patients with multiple health conditions. By combining these networks to create a new data infrastructure, CoNECT can foster comparative effectiveness research (CER) on the integration of mental health care into primary care and provide data to inform recommendations for policymakers and practitioners on the need for, and impact of, integrating mental health into primary care.

### **Specific Aims**

1. Establish and test CoNECT.
2. Demonstrate the effectiveness and capacity of the infrastructure by conducting a research project to evaluate the care of people with comorbid mental health and chronic medical conditions.
3. Evaluate CoNECT to determine its strengths, weaknesses, and potential for extensive CER with patients from underrepresented groups who have co-occurring depression or other mental conditions and other priority chronic medical conditions.

### **Pilot Study**

This pilot demonstrated the capacity of CoNECT for CER in patients with comorbid mental health and chronic medical

### **Infrastructure Goal**

Combine two practice-based research networks and electronically mine electronic health record data to enable comparative effectiveness research on patients who have both mental health and physical disease.

### **Data Sources**

Electronic health record data from two existing practice-based research networks: the CCRN and the DARTNet.

### **Data Access**

The data are available through <http://www.dartnet.info/>.

### **Strategies Addressed from the HHS Strategic Framework on Multiple Chronic Conditions**

- 1.B. Define appropriate health care outcomes
- 1.F. Evaluate models of care, incentives, and other health system interventions
- 3.A. Identify best practices and tools
- 4.C. Increase clinical research
- 4.D. Address health disparities

## Collaborative National Networks Examining Comparative Effectiveness Trials (CoNECT) (continued)

conditions. Using a common data aggregation and extraction capability, the project contrasted collaborative care models of mental health services delivery with usual care referral to out-of-practice specialty mental health and substance abuse services delivery.

Results indicated that extracting data from electronic medical records to study patients with multiple chronic conditions, including mental health conditions, is feasible. A total of 188,690 patients were identified for the study from the first data pull, and 29,953 patients met the inclusion criteria (one mental health condition and one chronic disease). In control practices (those with integrated mental health providers), the prevalence of comorbid mental health ranged from 18% to 30% while the prevalence on the intervention side (practices with no onsite mental health) ranged from 5% to 48% showing substantial variance in practices' ability to detect mental health conditions. Relative to the identification of chronic disease, the prevalence of comorbid mental health conditions was relatively lower than expected.

### Publications (as of September 2013)

Publications currently in preparation.

### Posters and Presentations

Miller B. Initial results from CoNECT. Poster presentation at: the North American Primary Care Research Group Conference; 2012 Dec 1–5; New Orleans, LA.

Miller B. Integrated care: Good data can lead to transforming healthcare. Paper presented at: Leveraging Knowledge and Action to Improve Health Care Quality. 6th Annual Conference of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2012 September 9–12; Bethesda, MD.

Miller B. CoNECT: Collaborative National Networks Examining Comparative Effectiveness Trials. Poster presented at: Leveraging Knowledge and Action to Improve Health Care Quality. 6th Annual Conference of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2012 September 9–12; Bethesda, MD.

Miller B, McLouth R. Studying the impact of behavioral health and primary care through electronic medical records: The CoNECT project. Poster presented at: Annual Meeting of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality National Practice Based Research Network; June 21–22; 2012. Bethesda, MD.

Miller B. Collaborative National Network Examining Comparative Effectiveness Trials. 60 Second Presentation at: the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Multiple Chronic Conditions Research Network Meeting; 2012 May 17–18; Rockville, MD.

Miller B and McLouth R. Researching the impact of mental health integration in primary care through electronic medical records. Poster presented at: Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Conference on Practice Improvement; 2011 Dec 1–4; Newport Beach, CA.

Miller B. Leveraging clinical data for behavioral intervention and care coordination. Poster presented at: Corporate Research Group Executive Healthcare Industry Forum on Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Impacting Care Coordination and Chronic Disease Management; 2011 Oct 27; New York, NY.

Kessler R, and Miller B. Data data everywhere but not a drop that is useful. Poster presented at: Integrated Care: The Essential Role of Integrated Care in Healthcare Reform. 7th Annual Two Worlds Unite Symposium; 2011 Mar 19; Chapel Hill, NC.

Miller B. Researching the impact of co-located mental health providers in primary care. Poster presented at: Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Conference on Practice Improvement; 2010 Dec; San Antonio, TX.