

Epi Info: A user-friendly software for Clinical Data Management and Statistical Analysis

The aim of Clinical Data Management Software (CDMS) is to manage the large volumes of data generated during clinical trials. Data generated at sites using case report forms (CRFs) is manually fed into individual systems giving rise to the possibility of errors while performing various operations like data entry, data verification, query resolution, updation of data, etc. A CDMS brings to light errors that have occurred during these different phases and helps in resolving them.

What constitutes a good CDMS?

A good CDMS enables maintenance of quality in all the operations performed while being cost effective. Epi Info is an established multipurpose free software providing high quality and user friendly features for data management and statistical analysis. The use of Epi Info for accurate recording, effectively managing and analyzing data in clinical trials can significantly contribute to lower the overall cost of data management for sponsors without compromising on quality.

Epi Info is developed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia (USA)¹. This software has been in use for the last 20 years with an acknowledgement on its user friendliness backed by World Health Organization (WHO). Epi Info - The 3 series is currently used and is a popular version among industry professionals. This program allows database designing, data entry, analysis of the data and generation of reports and graphs. Often repeated processes can be saved as program files and re-used effectively saving on overall time spent on the projects. Not proven though but an optimum use of this software can ensure reduced project timelines.

Epi Info and Vedic

Epi Info has helped us better our data management performance, analyze results and plan for success. By identifying performance indicators in clinical data processes, measuring them against benchmarks and reporting results to stakeholders at every level, Vedic has increased its speed to deliver while improving quality and competitiveness.

We have effortlessly integrated Epi Info in our clinical data management that helps our teams identify problem areas quickly and ensure that this does not affect the overall project completion timelines.

At Vedic, the software has been successfully used in Data Management of Completed Studies of Male Sexual Dysfunction, Osteoarthritis and Oedema. Analysis of data is of great significance in answering the hypothetical claim of the clinical trial. Numbers score over words because they do not have shades of meaning; they are precise, objective, unambiguous, hence they are widely understood, Thus Epi Info is a tool that assists in making sense of trial data and answering the questions for which the clinical trial was conducted.²

References:

1. www.cdc.gov/epiinfo (accessed 14th June, 2010)
2. NanivadekarAS. *On Research in Clinical Practice', perspectives in Clinical Research (ISCR publication)*