



March 2025 WORKING GROUP MEETING AGENDA: Databases and Coding

Meeting details	
Location	Dorchester Library Room+ MS Teams
Meeting date	Thursday 20th March
Meeting time	2 PM
Chair(s)	Jennifer Quint
Attendees	Therese Lapperre Joan S Soriano Guilherme Safioti (TEVA) Mohsen Sadatsafavi Andy Dickens (OPRI) Kay Roy Holly Tibble Jacqui Melville (Adherium) Katia Verhamme Janwillem Kocks Valeria Perugini
Objectives	
1	Welcome and introduction
2	Update on project ideas
3	General discussion and key insights
4	New project ideas
5	Final remarks
6	Future actions
Items	
Welcome and Introduction	Jenni opened the meeting by warmly welcoming everyone, followed by introductions from the attending members.



<p>Update on Project Ideas</p>	<p>1. Exploring the Combined Effects of COPD and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus on Health Outcomes and Mortality, with Insights into GLP-1 Receptor Agonists</p> <p>The study aims to track the progression and onset of diabetes, assess the impact of co-occurrence on disease trajectories, and analyse cardiovascular and mortality risks, as well as healthcare utilization. A key focus is understanding how GLP-1 receptor antagonists influence disease progression, exacerbations, and related cardiovascular outcomes.</p> <p>There has already been some exploration of potential participation, with seven sites in Europe and six in Asia expressing interest. The study will be conducted as a database study, using healthcare records from different hospital systems to ensure comprehensive data collection. The goal is to develop a harmonised protocol that facilitates streamlined data structuring and analysis across all participating sites. Discussions are also underway regarding the key variables that should be included to ensure meaningful and consistent results.</p> <p>One of the main challenges at this stage is securing funding, which remains the primary hurdle for moving forward. Valeria and Michael have been actively seeking funding opportunities, but though no commitments have been secured so far.</p>
<p>General Discussion and Key Insights</p>	<p>1. Katia raised a practical question about how the study fits within the database and coding working group, given that there is also a COPD WG within REG. Jenni clarified that multiple WGs are involved, with some members participating across both.</p> <p>A key point of discussion was the type of data being used. The study aims to extract secondary care data directly from hospital databases to ensure that variables align with its objectives. There was also a conversation about incorporating administrative datasets alongside EHRs. However, Valeria pointed out that administrative data might lack key clinical details, such as spirometry records, which are important for COPD diagnosis and so the study. Mohsen highlighted that Canada has high-quality databases across provinces that could be valuable for the study. Jenni confirmed that the project remains open to new sites, allowing for further expansion.</p> <p>As the study continues to take shape, securing funding remains a critical challenge. The group is actively exploring funding opportunities and welcomes any suggestions to support the research. Michael raised concerns about the usual funding sources, noting that traditional COPD-focused pharmaceutical companies have already been approached multiple times. He and Valeria have been considering whether diabetes-focused pharmaceutical companies, particularly those developing GLP-1 receptor agonists, might be potential sponsors. However, he expressed uncertainty about their interest, as these companies may prefer broader patient populations over a specific subgroup like COPD patients.</p>



	<p>A potential strategy is to identify contacts within companies such as Novo Nordisk or Eli Lilly who may have an interest in expanding the therapeutic scope of GLP-1 receptor agonists. The group discussed the increasing number of clinical trials investigating these medications beyond metabolic and cardiovascular indications, including in conditions like sleep apnea and even lung cancer. However, there are currently no known trials specifically targeting COPD. It was suggested that strong real-world evidence from this study could appeal to industry stakeholders. If a compelling protocol is developed, companies may see value in supporting research that could provide preliminary insights into an emerging therapeutic application for COPD. The idea of approaching medical or marketing departments within pharmaceutical companies to discuss potential collaboration was raised as a next step.</p> <p>2. TORPEDO: A question was raised about the Torpedo project, a previous REG initiative aimed at defining minimum dataset requirements for respiratory research based on study type (e.g., asthma vs. COPD, prospective vs. retrospective). Katia and Jenni explained that the project resulted in a checklist, which was published and intended to guide future studies. While it was initially designed to inform other WGs, there was no ongoing follow-up, and it was considered a completed project.</p>
<p>New Project Ideas</p>	<p>A new research idea emerged from the Adherence WG, examining how asthma medication use has changed following the updated GINA guidelines, using a common data protocol and pharmaco-epidemiological methods. The study would analyse trends in SABA use and biologic uptake across different countries, which could be of interest to funders, particularly within the pharmaceutical industry.</p> <p>Jenni supported the idea, noting that while the guidelines have changed, real-world clinical practice often lags behind. However, given that the study would require time to develop a protocol and secure funding, the timing might align well with observable shifts in prescribing patterns.</p> <p>The discussion also touched on potential challenges in studying biologic use, including reimbursement barriers that vary by country and healthcare system. It was noted that existing databases, such as the International Severe Asthma Registry (ISAR), might provide valuable data for the project. Connecting with experts like David Price and exploring potential collaborations with organisations such as the Global Asthma Network were suggested as next steps. The upcoming Global Asthma Report in 2028 presents another potential funding opportunity, as medication access is a key focus of the network’s mission.</p>



Final Remarks	In the final part of the conversation, the group shifted focus to the potential value of the this WG in supporting ongoing and future REG research projects. It was emphasised that one of the core strengths of the group lies in its ability to provide access to diverse databases and offer expertise in using these databases effectively. By leveraging their experience with data access and analysis, the group can help identify methodologies that enable researchers to address specific, clinically relevant research questions.
Future Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Michael and Valeria will approach companies, including diabetes-focused ones, to secure funding for the COPD/T2D study.