Linking data for health services research: a framework and instructional guide
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Authors' objectives
This report serves as a conceptual framework for data linkage in the context of CER. The report defines the requirements for high-quality record linkage of registries to other data sources and describes the strengths and limitations of different approaches. By explaining the spectrum of activities involved, it serves as an instructional guide for researchers designing new CER studies using patient registries linked with other secondary data sources. Through this report, we provide an overview of linkage from registries to administrative claims, including considerations for researchers, data managers, information technology managers, and other stakeholders who are likely to be involved in the process of data linkage. We also apply the data linkage framework to a real-world problem and discuss the results.

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