DATAVANT

Case Study:

Overcoming Trial Recruitment Challenges in NASH Using De-identified Patient Linking

Background

Recruiting patients for Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) trials can be a challenge. Diagnosis and staging require a combination of lab test results combined to create a Fibrosis-4 score (FIB-4) and specialized MRI and ultrasound liver imaging to measure hepatic steatosis, and liver stiffness. The challenge is that most clinical trial sites do not have access to both blood serum labs and the proper liver imaging capabilities. These data are often collected by labs on the one hand and specialized imaging organizations on the other.

Client Need

A client who needed to recruit NALF and NASH patients could only do so by linking data from patients' blood serum test results to imaging center data with the required MRI and ultrasound information in order to confirm a NALF or NASH diagnosis. They needed to find patients in each data set and link their data together to make the diagnosis. They could then alert CRO trial sites that they had patients meeting the criteria for the trial.

How De-identified Real-World Data Linking Helped

The Datavant ecosystem partners include a liver imaging specialty provider and multiple lab vendors. Each one used the Datavant platform to de-identify and tokenize patient data which was added into a single data repository. The client aggregated and matched tokens from each party, linking together the blood tests from labs to the imaging results from the imaging vendor to identify patients with NAFLD and NASH using a common de-identified HIPAA compliant token.

The client's CRO was provided with a list of the physicians in the network who had NAFLD or NASH patients in their network and the sites recruited patients who met the criteria. The linked labs and imaging data helped accelerate patient finding at sites who had a density of NAFLD and NASH patients

https://aasldpubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/cld.1045