

PCORnet Policy for Affiliate Network Status

I. Criteria for Affiliate Network Status

At this time, the opportunity to apply for Affiliate Network status with PCORnet is open to networks that have received funding from PCORI to develop the PCORnet infrastructure as a CDRN or PPRN, but are no longer receiving infrastructure funding from PCORI. This includes networks that received Phase I infrastructure funding from PCORI and did not receive Phase II infrastructure funding from PCORI. As appropriate, Affiliate Network applicants should be able to indicate their ability and willingness to address the following network goals to:

- Have highly engaged patients, caregivers, researchers, and other key stakeholders participate in network governance;
- Contribute to the PCORnet Commons;
- Have analysis-ready standardized data, using the PCORnet Common Data Model, and preserving strong privacy and data-security protections, and an oversight framework that fosters public trust in research;
- Have access to linked claims data;
- Foster expertise in specific disease areas of interest or populations;
- Develop a collaborative community that attracts a diverse set of researchers, funders, and other networks.

II. Process to Apply for Consideration for Affiliate Network Status

To be considered for Affiliate Network status, a formal written request must be submitted to the PCORnet Executive Committee Chair. The request must demonstrate previous funding from PCORI to participate as a CDRN or PPRN in PCORnet, previous achievements in developing a PPRN or CDRN infrastructure, and an expressed commitment to continue to develop as a patient-centered research network that is interested in supporting national models for patient-centered comparative effectiveness research. The formal request will be reviewed and voted upon by the PCORnet Executive Committee. If the request is approved by the Executive Committee, the request will be presented to the PCORnet Council for final approval.

III. Requirements for Participating as an Affiliate Network

All Affiliate Networks approved by the PCORnet Council must agree to adhere to the PCORnet governance policies.

IV. Participation of Affiliate Networks

Affiliate Networks are given the opportunity to participate in calls dedicated to Principal Investigator and Program Manager collaboration, are eligible to participate in face-to-face meetings as determined by the Executive Committee (including PCORnet Council Meetings), will receive access and ability to contribute to Central Desktop and the PCORnet Commons, and the ability to participate in workgroups. Workgroup participation will be based on standard selection of workgroup members. Affiliate Network requirements and participation will be further described in subsequent policies, regarding such aspects as participation in studies and engagement requirements.

V. Voting Status for Affiliate Networks

Affiliate Networks will not be voting members of the PCORnet Council or any workgroup.

VI. Affiliate Network Participation in Network Committees

Affiliate Networks will not be eligible to become members of the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, or the PCORnet Data, Research, or Engagement Committees. In the circumstance that additional committees are established, Affiliate Networks will not be eligible to serve on any formal PCORnet Committee, unless the applicable Committee Charter provides for such membership.

VII. Affiliate Network Support

Affiliate Networks will not be entitled to funding or reimbursement for participating in meetings or activities, related to their status as an Affiliate Network. Affiliate Networks will not receive PCORnet program support services (e.g., from the PCORnet Coordinating Center), except as may be determined to be needed to enable notification of and attendance at applicable meetings.