

PCORnet[®] Playbook

MODULE 2: GETTING STARTED WITH PCORnet

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2.1 Knocking on the PCORnet® Front Door

Whether your request is large or small, all requests to access PCORnet resources begin with the [PCORnet® Front Door](#). Our team of experts offers no-cost consultations on how to use PCORnet for your research. All initial consultations include a Study Feasibility Review to help you determine if the network is a good fit for your research goals. Depending on the needs of your study, your consultation may also include a Data Network Request and/or a Network Collaborator Request. [Module 3](#) describes each of these services in detail. This module provides a high-level overview of what to expect when you contact the PCORnet® Front Door.

Managed by the Coordinating Center for PCORnet®, the PCORnet® Front Door offers

flexible, study-specific support throughout all stages of research, from initial concept development to study completion. We encourage all types of researchers—academic, industry, and government investigators, clinicians, patient and community partners, and healthcare professionals—to reach out to the PCORnet® Front Door. Our team is eager to help you explore how the PCORnet infrastructure can support your research goals.

See [Module 1](#) for the kinds of research the PCORnet infrastructure is well-suited to support

Knock on the PCORnet® Front Door to access PCORnet



- 1**
Tell us
about your study via a short intake form
- 2**
Discuss
your study with the PCORnet® Front Door team
- 3**
Learn how
PCORnet can support your research goals with a Study Feasibility Review
- 4**
Determine
next steps with the PCORnet® Front Door team

If PCORnet is able to support your study, you may choose one or both services.

Get data insights
from PCORnet® Clinical Research Networks with a Data Network Request

Build your study team
with a Network Collaborator Request

Reach out: First, visit the [PCORnet® Front Door](#) and complete a brief six-question form with basic information about you and your research goals. While you don't need all the details of your study at this stage, clear and thorough responses will help the PCORnet team understand your request and prepare for your consultation. A team member will contact you within one business day to request more information or schedule a consultation.

Work through the details: During the consultation, which may be done over email or in a meeting, you'll have the opportunity to discuss your research with the PCORnet® Front Door team. This team includes staff from the Coordinating Center and research experts who will offer feedback, share examples of similar studies, and advise on whether PCORnet can support your research goals. The PCORnet® Front Door team can also help you create a budget for a PCORnet project or describe the network in a research proposal.

“The PCORnet® Front Door team was exceptionally helpful. During the initial consult, the team identified the types of PCORnet resources most directly related to my proposal, and provided me with resources to better frame our request and understand the data model used by sites and networks.

— Keith Feldman, PCORnet® Front Door requestor, Children's Mercy Research Institute

After your consultation, you will have a better understanding of:

1. If the PCORnet infrastructure is a good fit for your study. For example, does the network have sufficient data to support your study? Does your study have a plan to ensure meaningful engagement of patients and community partners?
2. The PCORnet resources and services the PCORnet® Front Door team recommends as next steps for your study. See [Module 3](#) for details on the specific process for available services.

Watch this [video](#) to learn more about the PCORnet® Front Door

Knock on the PCORnet® Front Door to access PCORnet



[Learn more](#) about the benefits of using PCORnet for your research

2.2 What Is a PCORnet® Study?

A PCORnet® Study uses the PCORnet infrastructure and resources to drive the future of patient-centered research that is meaningful to patients and their caregivers. PCORnet® Study designation represents more than access to PCORnet resources—it demonstrates your commitment to deep, intentional collaboration between the study team and patients.

To be designated a PCORnet® Study, your project must:

- Include at least two [PCORnet® Clinical Research Networks \(CRNs\)](#). Sites that are not partnered with the network may participate in PCORnet® Studies.
- Demonstrate how participants and patients are engaged throughout the study.
- Be committed to returning results to participants.
- Agree to regularly share study progress and best practices.
- Leverage the [PCORnet® Common Data Model](#), as applicable.

“PCORnet® Studies are designed specifically in service to the patient, from engagement in the design and conduct to dissemination of results. It is one way we help ensure research that matters to patients continues to progress—and, at the end of the day, that’s what the PCORnet is all about.

— Russell Rothman, Principal Investigator at STAR, a PCORnet® Clinical Research Network

Becoming a PCORnet® Study offers several unique benefits.

- **PCORnet Branding:** Use the PCORnet name and logo to convey credibility.
- **Expert Support:** Receive guidance from experienced investigators throughout your study. PCORnet research experts can share lessons learned from other studies to help you address challenges and identify common benchmarks.
- **Shared Learning:** Learn from other PCORnet® Studies and get inspired by other pragmatic research designs and approaches to patient engagement.
- **Increased Visibility:** Broaden your study’s reach through PCORnet communication channels. Each PCORnet® Study is listed on the [PCORnet.org website](#) with a high-level overview of the study and links to publications. PCORnet® Studies may also be promoted in website news stories, quarterly newsletters, and network meetings.

Researchers may apply for PCORnet® Study designation through the [PCORnet® Front Door](#).

We want to thank the [many individuals](#) who have contributed their time and valuable input to developing the PCORnet® Playbook.

*[Proceed to Module 3:
Using PCORnet® to Power Your Research](#)*