

Practice-Based Learning Networks: EPIC and POPLAR

A **Practice-Based Learning Network (PBLN)** is a network of primary healthcare providers who collaboratively explore challenges, develop and share innovations, and use practice-based data to improve care and outcomes.

EPIC is a province-wide PBLN open to all Alliance members.

It is a sister network to the six regional PBLNs that are hosted at universities around Ontario.

EPIC stands for *Equity, Performance, Improvement, and Change*.



POPLAR is a network of networks for primary care across Ontario.

It includes all six of the regional PBLNs in Ontario as well as the Alliance's EPIC PBLN.

POPLAR stands for *Primary Care Ontario Practice-Based Learning and Research*.



- **EPIC** and **POPLAR** provide unique opportunities to take part in **population-level, practical research** that can improve care and outcomes for our clients and communities.
- **EPIC brings together** data, knowledge-creators, and knowledge-users across our sector.
- **POPLAR extends the network** to other sectors to expand the possibilities for collaboration, data-sharing, and spread of new innovations.
- **POPLAR** is a **data trust** that incorporates administrative and practice data from ICES and EMR systems from all primary care sectors across Ontario.
- **EPIC** and **POPLAR** will enable **rapid evaluation and improvement** – **EPIC** at the centre and sector levels, and **POPLAR** at the regional, OHT, and provincial levels.
- **POPLAR** is **endorsed and funded** by the Ministry of Health.

There are two ways to participate in POPLAR.

Encourage and **enable your providers** to join the **EPIC PBLN** or your regional PBLN.

Participants meet regularly to learn from each other and collaborate on research projects.

Sign the **data-sharing agreement** to share your EMR data with **POPLAR**.

The data will be shared via **UTOPIAN**, the PBLN connected to the University of Toronto.

Questions about **POPLAR** or **EPIC**? Email Jennifer.Rayner@AllianceON.org

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How is POPLAR different from sharing our data with ICES?

- **POPLAR** and **ICES** data **complement** each other, because the data is from different sources.
 - Alliance data shared with **ICES** includes **EMR data**, but **ICES** data from other sectors is administrative (billing) data only.
 - The **POPLAR** dataset will bring together data from **all primary care sectors**, linked to health system usage data from ICES.
 - Members of the POPLAR PBLN will have **timely access** to this data for rapid learning, evaluation, and improvement.
 - With **POPLAR**, practitioners can **securely re-identify their own clients' data** to determine who might benefit from an innovation.
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Sharing your data with POPLAR is easy and secure.

- Data will be extracted in the same way and at the same time as data is extracted for CIHI – **no extra work for you** or your team!
 - The data-sharing agreement will follow the same protocols as the agreements with CIHI and ICES, with **data flowing through BIRT**.
 - The **dataset will be controlled**, meaning members of POPLAR need to make formal requests and meet ethical guidelines to access data for particular projects.
 - Data will be **de-identified** before being sent to POPLAR.
 - Each client will be assigned an encrypted code, and **all data will be protected** according to PHIPA and other relevant privacy laws.
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Ontario's Practice-Based Learning Networks

Primary Care Ontario Practice-Based Learning and Research Network (**POPLAR**)

Equity, Performance, Improvement and Change (**EPIC**)

University of Toronto Practice-Based Research Network (**UTOPIAN**)

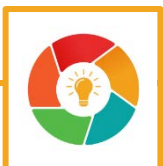
Northern Ontario School of Medicine Research Toward Health Hub (**NORTHH**)

Eastern Ontario Network (Queen's University) (**EON**)

Ottawa Practice Enhancement Network (University of Ottawa) (**OPEN**)

McMaster University Sentinel and Information Collaboration (**MUSIC**)

Deliver Primary Healthcare Information (Western University) (**DELPHI**)



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