

Epic Cosmos Available for Research Use at Froedtert & MCW

Epic Cosmos is one of the largest health data networks in the world, aggregating standardized electronic health record data from more than 300 million patients across participating healthcare organizations. By transforming clinical data into actionable knowledge, Cosmos enables researchers to generate new insights, advance scientific discovery, and support improvements in patient care.

The platform provides access to large, diverse, and longitudinal datasets that can be used to support a broad range of research activities, including clinical, translational, population health, and real-world evidence studies. Its scale, standardized data model, and privacy-focused framework create unique opportunities to explore research questions that may not be feasible within a single institution's dataset.

Since Froedtert implemented Epic Cosmos in early 2026, researchers have been able to request access, complete required training, and begin using the platform for eligible research activities.

The MCW Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) Office, in collaboration with MCW Corporate Compliance and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), conducted a comprehensive review of the Epic Cosmos research environment. This evaluation included assessment of the data available to researchers, the de-identification methodology, and the HIPAA privacy and security protections implemented within the platform.

Based on this review, the MCW HRPP Office has determined that research conducted exclusively within the Froedtert Epic Cosmos researcher environment using the data made available through Cosmos does **not require IRB review or approval**.

- *Please note research that uses Froedtert EPIC Cosmos in conjunction with other research activities may still require IRB review and approval.*

Researchers may access and use Froedtert Epic Cosmos data in accordance with institutional policies, platform requirements, and applicable data use restrictions.