

Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool

Investigator Manual

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PopMedNet™ application was developed under from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, US Department of Health and Human Services as part of the Developing Evidence to Inform Decisions about Effectiveness (DEcIDE) program, awarded to the DEcIDE centers at the HMO Research Network Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics (HMORN CERT) and the University of Pennsylvania. The Food and Drug Administration's Mini-Sentinel project provided additional support.

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1 Introduction

The Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool is based on the PopMedNet™ software application that enables simple, efficient creation and use of distributed data networks, through a set of tools and web-based services. It is optimized to facilitate distributed analyses of medical product safety, comparative effectiveness, quality, medical resource utilization, cost-effectiveness, and related studies. The system provides secure, customized private portals, query tools, and file transfer capabilities. It supports both menu driven queries and distributed analyses using complex, single use or multi-use programs designed to execute against a local data resource.

Data partners exercise full control over the files they make available for querying, the results are returned to requestors, and the individuals who are permitted to submit queries.

This [Mini-Sentinel Investigator Manual](#) describes the main features and functions for Investigators participating in the network. Investigators will primarily interact with the network through a secure web-based Portal as described below.

The Department of Population Medicine at the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute (HPHCI) led development of the system in collaboration with Lincoln Peak Partners (LPP). Lincoln Peak Partners provides support services and secure hosting for current system users, and leads development of system enhancements.

2 System Overview

The Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool is comprised of two separate applications, the web-based **Portal** and the **DataMart Client**. There is one Portal in the network and each data partner has one or more “DataMarts”. The Portal is the starting point for all information requests and controls all system communications, security, and governance policies. Data Partners receive queries, process them, and securely return them to the Portal via their locally installed DataMart Client software application. Each Mini-Sentinel Data Partner will have at least one DataMart; multiple DataMarts per Data Partner are possible. Each DataMart can contain different types of data and DataMarts can have different query processing settings. All query requests and communications within the network are securely routed from the Portal to the DataMarts and then back to the Portal.

Note: The term **DataMart** is used in an information technology context referring to the place where the data are held for querying. Use of this term does not imply that data partner information is being sold or being made broadly available; Data Partners maintain control of all their data and all uses.

Browser Requirements

The Portal is designed to work with Internet Explorer (IE) 7 or later. Earlier versions of IE may not display the user interface properly. Although IE7 is the only officially supported browser, other browsers such as Firefox and Chrome may also work; Firefox has been used extensively in testing.

The DataMart Client Application

The DataMart Client application allows the DataMart Administrator to view queries distributed to the DataMart, execute queries locally, review the results, and upload the results to the portal. The DataMart Client is a .NET/C# Windows desktop application that is installed locally on one or more data partner computers. All communications between the DataMart Client application and the Portal use HTTP/SSL connections to securely transfer queries and results between the application and the Portal. The application uses ODBC connections to the local DataMart databases used to process queries and generate results.

Audience

This manual is intended for Mini-Sentinel Investigators who want to:

- Get started using the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool
- Submit a query to the available DataMarts
- Monitor status of a query
- Review results of a query

Investigator Roles

Roles determine the rights that individual users have when using the Portal. There are three Investigator roles available within the system. FDA and the Mini-Sentinel Operations Center will determine which network users are assigned which roles. Only FDA and selected Mini-Sentinel Operations Center staff will be given permission to send queries to the Mini-Sentinel data partners.

Investigator: can submit queries to DataMarts that have given them or their organization permission to submit queries and view only aggregated query results. *This role could be assigned to some FDA staff as determined by the FDA Mini-Sentinel team.*

Enhanced Investigator: can submit queries to DataMarts that have given them or their organization permission to submit queries and review their query results. This role has the additional right to view disaggregated (site-specific) results. *Authorized FDA and selected Mini-Sentinel Operations Center staff will be given this role to enable cross-site comparisons.*

Query Administrator: can approve queries before they are sent to DataMarts. This user has the rights of an Enhanced Investigator for sending and reviewing queries. *This role will be assigned to selected FDA staff to assist with monitoring FDA use of the network.*

Related Documents

For more information about the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool, see one of the following documents available on the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool portal:

Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool DataMart Administrator Manual

The *DataMart Administrator Manual* describes the tasks and activities required to install and manage a DataMart. This includes:

- Setting up and configuring the physical environment -- consisting of Internet connectivity/desktop computer requirements, and system software
- Installing and performing initial administrative setup of a DataMart Client
- Managing the DataMart setting in the Portal

Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool Group DataMart Administrator Manual

The *Group DataMart Administrator Manual* describes the tasks and activities required to manage results of a group. This includes:

- Viewing group results
- Approving group results

Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool Network Administrator Manual

The *Network Administrator Manual* describes the tasks and activities required to install and manage the Portal. This includes:

- Installing an instance of a Portal and an associated database
- Performing the initial administrative setup
- Performing typical Network Administrator functions such as adding new users and DataMarts, creating new roles, and deleting users and DataMarts

Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool Overview and Technical Documentation

The *Overview and Technical Documentation* describes the overall network system architecture, key querying features, and hosting and security details. This includes:

- System overview and workflow
- Policies and features
- Technical architecture and security

3 How to Login to the Web Portal

Before you can login to the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool portal, you need a username and password assigned by the Mini-Sentinel Operations Center support staff. Once you have your Login Credentials, follow the steps below.

The screenshot shows the login interface for the FDA Mini-Sentinel Project Distributed Query Tool. At the top, there is a blue header with the 'Mini-Sentinel' logo on the left and a 'Contact Us' link on the right. Below the header, the page title 'FDA Mini-Sentinel Project' is centered, followed by 'Distributed Query Tool' and 'Version: 2.2.1'. A section of instructions reads: 'INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete the form below and read the Terms and Conditions before using the Query Tool.' The login form includes a 'Username:' label with a text input field, a 'Password:' label with a text input field, and a 'Forgot Password?' link. Below the password field is a checkbox with the text 'I agree to the Terms and Conditions of use.' At the bottom of the form is a green 'Login' button.

Use these steps to login to the portal:

1. Navigate to the Mini-Sentinel custom website login page:
[Secure URL distributed by Mini-Sentinel Operations Center]
2. Enter your Username and Password in the boxes.
3. If this is your first login, you will be prompted to read and acknowledge your agreement to the Terms and Conditions of use. If you have cookies enabled on your web browser, you will not be prompted on subsequent logins.
4. Click the Login button to enter the Portal.

4 Submitting a Query, Viewing Query Status, and Viewing Results

Once you have logged in, the Portal displays the home page shown below. From the home page, you can create a Summary Query. This section tells you how to create a Summary Query, view the status of a query, and view the results. File Distribution is not featured in the Mini-Sentinel Network.

4.1 Getting Started

Click the Summary Query button to begin creating your query.



4.2 Submitting a Query

The Queries page allows you to create menu-driven queries. There are nine query types. The criteria that you can enter vary for each type. However, the basic steps are the same for all queries. Once you select a query type, the page shows numbered steps that lead you through the required input fields.

Procedure

Follow these basic steps to submit a query:

1. Choose the query category from the drop down menu. (Note: In version 2.2 of the query tool only Prevalence query types are available for querying.)
2. Choose a query type from the drop down menu.
3. Enter a unique name for the query in the text box. This name should help you distinguish among your queries. Note that this field only appears after you select the query type.
4. Enter a brief description of the query and the reason for submitting this query, for example to assess the utilization of a medical product. This description is distributed along with the query and should be detailed enough to allow data partners to assess the reason for the query.

Note: This step also displays your email address. To update your email address, please contact the Network Administrator. You must use a business email address, not a personal account.

5. Follow the numbered steps on the screen to enter criteria for each query type.
6. The available DataMarts will not appear until after at least one year is selected; once the year is selected, click on the Display DataMarts button to identify DataMarts available for querying.
7. Click the Start This Query button to submit the query. The query goes out to all the DataMarts that you have selected.

4.3 Query Types

The sections that follow describe the information to enter for each of the currently available query types. Detailed information regarding the data available through the queries is provided on the Portal and is available in separate documentation available from the Mini-Sentinel Operations Center support staff.

The currently available query types are:

1. Prevalence: Enrollment
2. Prevalence: HCPCS Procedures
3. Prevalence: ICD-9 Diagnoses (3 Digit Codes)
4. Prevalence: ICD-9 Diagnoses (4 Digit Codes)
5. Prevalence: ICD-9 Diagnoses (5 Digit Codes)
6. Prevalence: ICD-9 Procedures (3 Digit Codes)
7. Prevalence: ICD-9 Procedures (4 Digit Codes)
8. Prevalence: Pharmacy Dispensings by Generic Name
9. Prevalence: Pharmacy Dispensings by Drug Class

The screenshot shows the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool interface. At the top, there is a header with the Mini-Sentinel logo and the text 'Welcome: MS Investigator'. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: QUERIES, RESULTS, ADMINISTRATION, NETWORK, NOTIFICATIONS, and RESOURCES. The 'QUERIES' tab is selected.

The main content area is titled 'Specify a Query'. It contains the following text:

This page allows you to create menu-driven queries. Select a query category and query type using the drop down menus (step one) and follow the instructions. Select "Start This Query" to submit your request.

The data summaries represent **prevalence or incidence counts** of people and encounters/dispensings within each stratum.

Counts can be summed across age and sex strata within an observation period (e.g., year). To prevent double-counting, DO NOT sum person counts across periods or locations of service. For example, a person with diabetes in the outpatient setting in 2004 may also be counted in 2004 under inpatient diabetes and in 2005 under outpatient diabetes

Below the text, there is a dropdown menu labeled 'Prevalence' with a list of query types:

- Prev: Enrollment
- Prev: HCPCS Procedures
- Prev: ICD-9 Diagnoses (3 digit codes)
- Prev: ICD-9 Diagnoses (4 digit codes)
- Prev: ICD-9 Diagnoses (5 digit codes)
- Prev: ICD-9 Procedure (4 digit codes)
- Prev: ICD-9 Procedures (3 digit codes)
- Prev: Pharmacy Dispensings by Drug Class
- Prev: Pharmacy Dispensings by Generic Name

4.2.1 Enrollment

When you select Prevalence Enrollment from the query type menu in step 1, the screen displays the criteria you need to enter for this type of query. Step 1 is common to all types of queries. See Submitting a Query above.

Distributed Query Tool
Contact Us | Logout

QUERIES
RESULTS
ADMINISTRATION
NETWORK
NOTIFICATIONS
RESOURCES

Specify a Query

1

Prevalence

Prev: Enrollment

Please enter a Query name

Brief description of query and the purpose (e.g. feasibility, power calculation, background rates):

Note: To update your email address, please go to the Users page under the Administration tab.
elizabeth_balaconis@harvardpilgrim.org

Enrollment figures stratified by age group, sex, and eligibility type.

Use this query to generate counts of members by age group, sex, year, and coverage type. Users can select members with drug coverage only, medical coverage only, or both drug and medical coverage.

2

Please select coverages:

☐ Drug and Medical Coverage
☐ Drug Coverage Only
☐ Medical Coverage Only
☐ All Members

3

Please select an Age Stratification:

10 Stratifications (0-1,2-4,5-9,10-14,15-18,19-24,25-29,30-34,35-39,40-44,45-49,50-54,55-59,60-64,65-69,70-74,75-79,80-84,85-89,90-94,95-99,100+)

4

Please select Sex:

Male and Female

5

Please select one or more Periods:

☐ 2000
☐ 2001
☐ 2002
☐ 2003
☐ 2004
☐ 2005
☐ 2006
☐ 2007

6

Please select at least two DataMarts to which this query will be sent:
Note: Click a DataMart name to view details (Metadata)

7

Finally, Submit Your Query By Clicking the Button Below:

Start This Query

Enter the following criteria for an Enrollment query:

Coverage	Select one of the coverage types that this query is based upon: Drug and Medical Coverage Drug Coverage Only Medical Coverage Only All Members (which represents a the union of previous 3 coverage types)
Age Stratification	Select the required age stratification from the drop down menu.
Sex Stratification	Select a sex grouping from the drop down menu to specify the sex stratification for your results (female only, male only, male and female, or male and female aggregated).
Period	Select one or more years. Check the box next to the year to include it in your query.
DataMarts	Select the DataMarts to submit your query to. Only the DataMarts that have data for the given Period are displayed.

Note: These counts are used to calculate prevalence rates as seen in Section 4.4.1.

4.2.2 HCPCS Procedures (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System)

When you select Prevalence HCPCS Procedures from the query type menu in step 1, the screen displays the criteria you need to enter for this type of query. Step 1 is common to all types of queries. See Submitting a Query above.

Distributed Query Tool
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QUERIES
RESULTS
ADMINISTRATION
NETWORK
NOTIFICATIONS
RESOURCES

Specify a Query

1

Prevalence

Prev: HCPCS Procedures

Please enter a Query name

Brief description of query and the purpose (e.g. feasibility, power calculation, background rates):

Note: To update your email address, please go to the Users page under the Administration tab.
elizabeth_balaconis@harvardpilgrim.org

Search by specific code, range of codes (e.g., 90600-90699) or keyword to identify codes for the query; wildcards (*) can be used. Select up to 10 codes, the setting (location of service), age group, sex, and period parameters. Then select the sites to query and click 'Start This Query'. Member counts within each location of service cannot be summed across location of service or period as some patients will have care in more than one setting or year.

2

2 Options to Select Codes (can use both)

The code set used for the specifications for HCPCS, ICD-9 Diagnosis (3, 4 and 5 digit) and ICD-9 Procedure (3 and 4 digit) query types are provided by Ingenix, Inc.
Enter Code(s) or text to search

Search

Choose category...

00000-09999

Select Codes from Search List

Codes Selected for this Query:

4

Please select an Age Stratification:

10 Stratifications (0-1,2-4,5-9,10-14,15-18,19-24,25-29,30-34,35-39,40-44,45-49,50-54,55-59,60-64,65-69,70-74,75-79,80-84,85-89,90-94,95-99)

5

Please select Sex:

Male and Female

6

Please select one or more Periods:

☐ 2000

☐ 2001

☐ 2002

☐ 2003

☐ 2004

☐ 2005

☐ 2006

☐ 2007

☐ 2008

☐ 2009

☐ 2010

☐ 2011

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☐ 2601

☐ 2602

☐ 2603

☐ 2604

☐ 2605

☐ 2606

☐ 2607

☐ 2608

☐ 2609

☐ 2610

☐ 2611

☐ 2612

☐ 2613

☐ 2614

☐ 2615

☐ 2616

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☐ 2618

☐ 2619

☐ 2620

☐ 2621

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☐ 2635

☐ 2636

☐ 2637

☐ 2638

☐ 2639

Enter the following criteria for HCPCS Procedures query:

Code Selection	<p>You can choose up to 10 HCPCS (CPT-4) procedure codes to view in one query.</p> <p>There are two ways to select the codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search by text string or code; search using wildcards “*” is available.• Choose a category and select from a list. The list shows code and name. Click on the column header to sort by code or by name. <p>Click on Add Codes to add the selected codes to the list and display the list.</p>
Setting	Select the care setting for the query: inpatient, outpatient (ambulatory), or emergency department.
Age Stratification	Select the required age stratification from the drop down menu.
Sex Stratification	Select a sex grouping from the drop down menu to specify the sex stratification for your results (female only, male only, male and female, or male and female aggregated).
Period	Select one or more years. Check the box next to the year to include it in your query.
DataMarts	Select the DataMarts to submit your query to. Only the DataMarts that have data for the given Period are displayed.

4.2.3 ICD-9 Diagnoses (3, 4 and 5 Digit Codes)

When you select Prevalence: ICD-9 Diagnoses (3, 4, or 5 Digit Codes) from the query type menu in step 1, the screen displays the criteria you need to enter for this type of query. Step 1 is common to all types of queries. See Submitting a Query above.

Note: Each different digit code represents a separate query. You may not combine different digit codes into one query.

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Specify a Query

1 Prevalence
 Prev: ICD-9 Diagnoses (3 digit codes) Three-digit ICD-9-CM diagnoses codes stratified by age group, sex, year, and location of service.
 Please enter a Query name
 Brief description of query and the purpose (e.g. feasibility, power calculation, background rates):

 Note: To update your email address, please go to the Users page under the Administration tab.
 elizabeth_balaconis@harvardpilgrim.org

Search by specific code, range of codes (e.g., 250-255) or keyword to identify codes for the query; wildcards (*) can be used. Select up to 10 codes; the setting (location of service), age group, sex, and period parameters. Then select the sites to query and click 'Start This Query'. Member counts within each location of service cannot be summed across location of service or period as some patients will have care in more than one setting or year.

2 2 Options to Select Codes (can use both)
 The code set used for the specifications for HCPCS, ICD-9 Diagnosis (3, 4 and 5 digit) and ICD-9 Procedure (3 and 4 digit) query types are provided by Ingenix, Inc.
 Enter Code(s) or text to search: _____ Search
 Choose category: _____
 (001-139) INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASE
 Select Codes from Search List
 Codes Selected for this Query: _____

4 Please select an Age Stratification:
 10 Stratifications (0-1, 2-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-18, 19-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85-94)

5 Please select Sex:
 Male and Female

6 Please select one or more Periods:
☐ 2000
☐ 2001
☐ 2002
☐ 2003
☐ 2004
☐ 2005
☐ 2006
☐ -----

7 Please select at least two DataMarts to which this query will be sent:
 Note: Click a DataMart name to view details (Metadata)

3 Please select a Setting:
 Select

8 Finally, Submit Your Query By Clicking the Button Below:

Enter the following criteria for an ICD-9 Diagnoses query:

Code Selection You can choose up to 10 ICD-9 diagnoses codes per query.

There are two ways to select the codes:

- Search by text string or code; search using wildcards “*” is available.
- Choose a category and select from a list. The list shows code and name. Click on the column header to sort by code or by name.

Click on **Add Codes** to add the selected codes to the list and display the list.

Age Stratification Select the required age stratification from the drop down menu.

Sex Stratification Select a sex grouping from the drop down menu to specify the sex stratification for your results (female only, male only, male and female, or male and female aggregated).

Setting Select the care setting for the query: outpatient, emergency department, or inpatient.

Period Select one or more years to include in your query. Check the box next to each year to add it to your query.

DataMarts Select the DataMarts to submit your query to. Only the DataMarts that have data for the given Period are displayed.

4.2.4 ICD-9 Procedures (3 and 4 Digit Codes)

When you select Prevalence: ICD-9 Procedures (3 or 4 Digit Codes) from the query type menu in step 1, the screen displays the criteria you need to enter for this type of query. Step 1 is common to all types of queries. See Submitting a Query above.

Note: Each different digit code represents a separate query type. You may not combine different digit codes into one query.

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Specify a Query

1

Prevalence

Prev: ICD-9 Procedures (3 digit codes)

Please enter a Query name

Brief description of query and the purpose (e.g. feasibility, power calculation, background rates):

Note: To update your email address, please go to the Users page under the Administration tab.
elizabeth_balaconis@harvardpilgrim.org

Search by specific code (including decimal), range of codes (e.g., 38.1-38.0) or keyword to identify codes for the query; wildcards (*) can be used. Select up to 10 codes, the setting (location of service), age group, sex, and period parameters. Then select the sites to query and click 'Start This Query'. Member counts within each location of service cannot be summed across location of service or period as some patients will have care in more than one setting or year.

2

2 Options to Select Codes (can use both)

The code set used for the specifications for HCPCS, ICD-9 Diagnosis (3, 4 and 5 digit) and ICD-9 Procedure (3 and 4 digit) query types are provided by Ingenix, Inc.
Enter Code(s) or text to search
Search

Choose category...
(00) PROCEDURES AND INTERVENTIONS, NOT I

Select Codes from Search List

Codes Selected for this Query:

4

Please select an Age Stratification:

10 Stratifications (0-1, 2-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-18, 19-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85+)

5

Please select Sex:

Male and Female

6

Please select one or more Periods:

2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006

7

Please select at least two DataMarts to which this query will be sent:
Note: Click a DataMart name to view details (Metadata)

3

Please select a Setting:

Select

8

Finally, Submit Your Query By Clicking the Button Below:

Start This Query

Enter the following criteria for an ICD-9 Procedures query:

Code Selection	<p>You can choose up to 10 ICD-9 procedure codes to view in one query.</p> <p>There are two ways to select the codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search by text string or code; search using wildcards “*” is available.• Choose a category and select from a list. The list shows code and name. Click on the column header to sort by code or by name. <p>Click on Add Codes to add the selected codes to the list and display the list.</p>
Setting	<p>Select the care setting for the query: inpatient, outpatient (ambulatory), or emergency department.</p>
Age Stratification	<p>Select the required age stratification from the drop down menu.</p>
Sex Stratification	<p>Select a sex grouping from the drop down menu to specify the sex stratification for your results (female only, male only, male and female, or male and female aggregated).</p>
Period	<p>Select one or more years. Check the box next to the year to include it in your query.</p>
DataMarts	<p>Select the DataMarts to submit your query to. Only the DataMarts that have data for the given Period are displayed.</p>

4.2.5 Pharmacy Dispensings by Generic Name

When you select Prevalence: Pharmacy Dispensings by Generic Name from the query type menu in step 1, the screen displays the criteria you need to enter for this type of query. Step 1 is common to all types of queries. See Submitting a Query above.

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Specify a Query

1

Prevalence
▼

Prew: Pharmacy Dispensings by Generic Name
▼

Please enter a Query name

Brief description of query and the purpose (e.g. feasibility, power calculation, background rates):

Note: To update your email address, please go to the Users page under the Administration tab.
elizabeth_balaconis@harvardpilgrim.org

Search for a specific generic name, or select a drug class from the drop-down menu to identify all generic name in the selected drug class. Select up to 10 drug names to query, and the age group, sex, and period parameters. Then select the sites to query and click 'Start This Query'. Member counts cannot be summed across period as some patients will have dispensing in more than one period.

2

2 Options to Select Drugs (can use both)

Enter Code(s) or text to search

Search

Choose category...

(ADHD) Therapy, NRI-Type Attention Deficit-Hypers
▼

Select Drugs from Search List

Drugs Selected for this Query:

3

Please select an Age Stratification:

10 Stratifications (0-1, 2-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-18, 19-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+)
▼

4

Please select Sex:

Male and Female
▼

5

Please select a Period Type:

Please select a period type
▼

6

Please select at least two DataMarts to which this query will be sent:

Note: Click a DataMart name to view details (Metadata)

7

Finally, Submit Your Query By Clicking the Button Below:

Start This Query

Enter the following criteria for a Pharmacy Dispensings by Generic Name query:

Drug Selection You can choose up to 10 drugs per query. Note: First DataBank was used to map National Drug Codes to the Generic Name list.

There are two ways to select the drugs:

- Search by text string or code; search using wildcards “*” is available.
- Choose a category and select from a list.

Click on **Add Codes** to add the selected drugs to the list and display the list.

Age Stratification Select the required age stratification from the drop down menu.

Sex Stratification Select a sex grouping from the drop down menu to specify the sex stratification for your results (female only, male only, male and female, or male and female aggregated).

Period Type Select the period type: Quarterly or Yearly.

Period Select one or more periods. Check the box next to the period to include it in your query.

DataMarts Select the DataMarts to submit your query to. Only the DataMarts that have data for the given Period are displayed.

4.2.6 Pharmacy Dispensing by Drug Class

When you select Prevalence: Pharmacy Dispensings by Drug Class from the query type menu in step 1, the screen displays the criteria you need to enter for this type of query. Step 1 is common to all types of queries. See Submitting a Query above.

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Specify a Query

1

Prevalence

Prev: Pharmacy Dispensings by Drug Class

Please enter a Query name

Brief description of query and the purpose (e.g. feasibility, power calculation, background rates):

Note: To update your email address, please go to the Users page under the Administration tab.

elizabeth_balaconis@harvardpilgrim.org

Stratified by age group, sex, and period (either year or quarter). Results include members, dispensing, and days supplied.

Search for specific drug classes by name, or to view all drug classes, leave the search bar empty and click on the search button. Select up to 10 drug classes to query, and the age group, sex, and period parameters. Then select the sites to query and click 'Start This Query'. Member counts cannot be summed across period as some patients will have dispensing in more than one period.

2

Enter Code(s) or text to search

Search

Select Drugs from Search List

Drugs Selected for this Query:

3

Please select an Age Stratification:

10 Stratifications (0-1,2-4,5-9,10-14,15-18,19-24,25-29,30-34,35-39,40-44,45-49,50-54,55-59,60-64,65-69,70-74,75-79,80-84,85-89,90-94,95-99)

4

Please select Sex:

Male and Female

5

Please select a Period Type:

Please select a period type!

6

Please select at least two DataMarts to which this query will be sent:

Note: Click a DataMart name to view details (Metadata)

7

Finally, Submit Your Query By Clicking the Button Below:

Start This Query

Enter the following criteria for a Pharmacy Dispensings by Drug Class query:

Drug Class Selection	<p>You can choose up to 10 drugs per query. Note: First DataBank was used to map National Drug Codes to the Drug Class list.</p> <p>There are two ways to select the drugs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search by text string or code; search using wildcards “*” is available.• Select from a list of drug classes. Leave the text box blank and click Search to display the list of drug classes available for this query. Check the box next to each drug class to include in your query. <p>Click on Add Codes to add the selected drug classes to the list and display the list.</p>
Age Stratification	Select the required age stratification from the drop down menu.
Sex Stratification	Select a sex grouping from the drop down menu to specify the sex stratification for your results (female only, male only, male and female, or male and female aggregated).
Period Type	Select the period type: Quarterly or Yearly.
Period	Select one or more periods. Check the box next to the period to include it in your query.
DataMarts	Select the DataMarts to submit your query to. Only the DataMarts that have data for the given Period are displayed.

4.3 Checking the Query Status

You can view the status of a query using the Results tab. You must be logged in to view query status.

The screenshot shows the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool interface. At the top, there is a header with the Mini-Sentinel logo and the text "Distributed Query Tool". To the right of the header, it says "Welcome: MS Investigator" and "Contact Us | Logout". Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: "QUERIES", "RESULTS", "ADMINISTRATION", "NETWORK", "NOTIFICATIONS", and "RESOURCES". The "RESULTS" tab is selected. The main content area is titled "Query Status". Below the title, there is a text box that says "Click 'View Details' to see query status by DataMart. You may sort queries by clicking on column titles and filter queries by type using the drop down menu." Below this text box, there is a "Select Range:" label, a dropdown menu set to "30 Days", and a "Filter" button. To the right of the "Filter" button, there is a dropdown menu set to "All query types". Below these elements is a table with the following columns: "Name", "ID", "Submitted On", "Submitted By", "Status", and "Type". The table contains one row with the following data: "My unique query name", "628", "4/1/2011 11:33:49 AM", "MS Investigator", "0/2 Completed", and "Prev: Enrollment". To the right of the "Type" column, there is a "View Details" link. At the bottom right of the table, there is a page number "1".

Name	ID	Submitted On	Submitted By	Status	Type
My unique query name	628	4/1/2011 11:33:49 AM	MS Investigator	0/2 Completed	Prev: Enrollment

Use these steps to view the status of a query:

1. At the top of the home page, click Results. The page displays a list of your queries. The Status column shows whether your query is completed, partially completed, or submitted.
2. Click on the column name to sort the queries. For example, if you want to view queries by date they were submitted, click Submitted On.
3. To see status for a specific query type, choose the query type from the drop down menu on the right. To filter the query results by date, select the range in the top left and click Filter.
4. Click on View Details to see query status by DataMart as shown on the View a Query screen in section 4.4 Viewing Query Results below. This displays a list of all the DataMarts to which you submitted the query along with status for each DataMart.

4.4 Viewing Query Results

You can view the results of a query on the View a Query screen, after clicking on View Details for the query of interest on the Query Status page as described in section 4.3 above.

A user designated as an Enhanced Investigator will have the right to view site results individually across the organizations within the query by selecting View Selected Results. This role will be assigned at the discretion of a System Administrator and in accordance with the governance of the system.

Note: Be sure to check the status of a query before you view the results. **If you select View Result before all DataMarts have uploaded their results, you will cancel queries which have not yet been responded to** (i.e., you will not be able to see any results from the DataMarts that did not respond to that query). If you want information from those DataMarts, you must submit a new query.

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View a Query

This page allows you to view query **My unique query name ID 628** of type **Prev: Enrollment** submitted **4/1/2011 11:33:49 AM**.

Click on "View Result" to view or export query results. Click "Refresh" to update query status.


DataMart Results

DataMart	Last Response	Message
<input type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto1	Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto2	Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto3	Pending	

Remove Add View Result Refresh

Use these steps to view query results:

1. Complete the steps described in the Checking Query Status section to navigate to the View a Query page.
2. Check the status column to verify that all results have been uploaded.
3. Click on the View Result button.
4. View the query results on the View Results screen as shown in the screen shot below.


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View Results

This page displays the results of your query.

Query Name: My unique query 2

Submitted: 4/1/2011 11:43:02 AM

Query Text:

```
Select SummaryData.*, EnrollmentData.EnrollmentMembers as [Total Enrollment in Strata(Members)],round(SummaryData.Members / EnrollmentData.EnrollmentMembers * 1000, 1) as [Prevalence Rate (Users per 1000 enrollees)],round(SummaryData.Events / EnrollmentData.EnrollmentMembers * 1000, 1) as [Event Rate (Events per 1000 enrollees)],
```

Results From: LPeak-auto1
LPeak-auto2
LPeak-auto3

Export to: Excel Export

AgeGroup	Sex	Period	DXCode	DXName	Setting	Events	Members	Total Enrollment in Strata(Members)	Prevalence Rate (Users per 1000 enrollees)	Event Rate (Events per 1000 enrollees)	Events Per member
0-21	All	2016	493	ASTHMA	IP	144	51	19125	2.7	7.5	2.8
0-21	All	2017	493	ASTHMA	IP	255	60	18525	3.2	13.8	4.2
22-44	All	2016	493	ASTHMA	IP	138	12	24048	0.5	5.7	11.5
22-44	All	2017	493	ASTHMA	IP	198	15	23241	0.6	8.5	13.2
45-64	All	2016	493	ASTHMA	IP	291	12	17658	0.7	16.5	24.2
45-64	All	2017	493	ASTHMA	IP	399	18	18186	1	21.9	22.2
65+	All	2016	493	ASTHMA	IP	105	3	3810	0.8	27.6	35
65+	All	2017	493	ASTHMA	IP	210	15	3822	3.9	54.9	14

4.4.1 Calculated Rates Columns

The calculated columns are included to give supporting information for the codes of interest. The Enrollment summary tables for each category are used with the corresponding selected query type to calculate the rates.

Medical Queries: HCPCS Procedures, ICD-9 Diagnoses and Procedures

- Total Enrollment in Strata (Members)-Total count includes members with both medical and drug coverage plus those with medical coverage only.
- Prevalence Rates (Users per 1000 enrollees)
- Event Rate (Events per 1000 enrollees)
- Events per Member

Drug Queries: Pharmacy Dispensings by Generic Name and Drug Class

- Total Enrollment in Strata (Members)- Total count includes members with both medical and drug coverage plus those with drug coverage only.
- Prevalence Rates (Users per 1000 enrollees)

- Dispensing Rate (Dispensings per 1000 enrollees)
- Days per Dispensing
- Days per User

4.5 Exporting Result Data

You can export the result data to a CSV File or to Excel from the View Results screen.

Use these steps to export data:

1. Choose CSV or Excel from the “Export to:” drop down box.
2. Click the Export button.

The file name for your exported data is made up of: the query name up to the first space in the name. For example: if your query name is “NamingScheme_SummaryQuery for Query Tool,” the name of the file will be “NamingScheme_SummaryQuery.xls.”

4.6 Rerouting Submitted Queries

Before viewing your query result, you can add DataMarts to or remove them from a query. Note: You cannot remove a particular DataMart after it has uploaded results to the query.

Use these steps to re-route a query:

1. Click the arrow on the far right of the DataMart you would like to remove from the query.
2. Select a different DataMart to send the query to.
3. An email will be sent to the removed DataMart to cancel the request, while a new query email will be sent to the added DataMart.

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View a Query

This page allows you to view query **Re-routing Query ID 539** of type **Prev: Enrollment** submitted **2/25/2011 2:04:46 PM**.

Click on "View Result" to view or export query results. Click "Refresh" to update query status:

DataMart Results

DataMart	All	Last Response	Message
<input type="checkbox"/> Test Org 1	Submitted		
<input type="checkbox"/> Test Org 2	Submitted		

Remove

Select DataMart to Add to this query

- ☐ LPeak-auto1
- ☐ LPeak-auto2
- ☐ HPHCI-Summary Tables
- ☐ LPeak-auto3
- ☐ LPeak-auto4
- ☐ LPP Test 2

Add **Cancel**

4.6.1 Removing a DataMart from a Query

Use these steps to remove a DataMart from a query:

1. On the View a Query page, check the box beside the DataMart(s) you would like to remove from the query.
2. Click the Remove button.
3. An email will be sent to the removed DataMart(s) cancelling your query request.

View a Query

This page allows you to view query **test953** ID **63** of type **Pharmacy Dispensings by Generic Name** submitted **10/27/2010 9:54:07 AM**.

Click on "View Result" to view or export query results. Click "Refresh" to update query status.

DataMart Results

DataMart	All	Last Response	Message
<input type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto1	Completed		
<input type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto2	Completed		
<input type="checkbox"/> LPP Test	Submitted		
<input type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto3	Pending Group DataMart Administrator Approval		
<input type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto4	Pending Group DataMart Administrator Approval		
<input type="checkbox"/> LPP Test 2	Submitted		

4.6.2 Adding a DataMart to a Query

Use these steps to add a DataMart to a query:

1. On the View a Query page, click the Add button to display a list of possible DataMarts.
2. Check box for each of the DataMarts that you would like to send the query to.
3. Click the Add button.
4. The query request will be sent to the newly added DataMart(s).

View a Query

This page allows you to view query **Enrollment counts** ID **322** of type **Prev: Enrollment** submitted **12/11/2010 3:47:35 PM**.

Click on "View Result" to view or export query results. Click "Refresh" to update query status.

DataMart Results

DataMart	All
<input type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto1	Completed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto2	Completed
<input type="checkbox"/> HPHCI-Summary Tables	Submitted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto3	Completed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LPeak-auto4	Completed

Select DataMart to Add to this query

- ☐ LPP Test 2
- ☒ Test Database
- ☐ KPCO Test
- ☐ KPNW Test
- ☐ KPNC Test
- ☐ Liz 1
- ☐ Liz 2

5 Notification E-mails

This section describes how to set up notifications to be e-mailed to your email address. You must be logged in to the web portal to change your notification settings. Click Notification Options on the Notifications tab at the top of the page to display the page shown below.

The screenshot shows the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool web portal. The top navigation bar includes the Mini-Sentinel logo, the title "Distributed Query Tool", and a welcome message "Welcome: MS Investigator" with links for "Contact Us" and "Logout". Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs for "QUERIES", "RESULTS", "ADMINISTRATION", "NETWORK", "NOTIFICATIONS", and "RESOURCES". The "NOTIFICATIONS" tab is selected, leading to the "Notification Option" page. This page has a subtitle: "This page allows you to choose Notification options." Below the subtitle is a table with three columns: "Notification Options", "Email", and "Description". The table lists three notification options for the "Investigator" role: "Query Status Change", "New Results", and "Query Submitter Reminder". Each option has an unchecked checkbox in the "Email" column and a detailed description in the "Description" column. At the bottom of the table are two green buttons: "Save" and "Cancel".

Notification Options	Email	Description
Investigator		
Query Status Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	"Query Status Change" email notifications are sent to the person that submitted a query. These emails are sent when the "status" of processing that query has changed. Currently, there are 2 types of status changes that will trigger sending an email (Hold and Reject). Note: If you'd like to be notified when the results of your query have been uploaded, please select the notification option entitled "New Results" below.
New Results	<input type="checkbox"/>	"New Results" email notifications are sent to "query submitters" to alert them when the results of their queries have been uploaded by Data Mart Administrators (i.e., those data marts that don't process queries automatically).
Query Submitter Reminder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Query Submitter Reminder" email notifications are sent to "query submitters" to alert them when one or more Data Marts have not uploaded results for the query submitted. The submitter can choose the frequency in which they want to receive the reminders from the available options ("Everyday", "Every 2 days"...). Note: The submitter will be delivered one reminder per query submitted based on the selected frequency.

The notification options for the Investigator role are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Query Status Change | Notifies you when your submitted query has been on placed on hold or rejected by the DataMart administrator that you submitted the query to. |
| New Results | Notifies you when the DataMart administrator has accepted your query and the query results have been uploaded. |
| Query Submitter Reminder | Notifies you when one or more DataMarts have not uploaded results for the query submitted. |

6 Administering your User Profile

This section describes how to administer your user profile. You must be logged in to the web portal to administer your user profile. Click Users on the Administration tab located at the top of the screen. The screen displays your user profile.

The screenshot shows the 'User Administration' page of the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool. The page has a blue header with the Mini-Sentinel logo and the text 'Distributed Query Tool'. On the right side of the header, it says 'Welcome: MS Investigator' and 'Contact Us | Logout'. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: 'QUERIES', 'RESULTS', 'ADMINISTRATION' (which is selected), 'NETWORK', 'NOTIFICATIONS', and 'RESOURCES'. The main content area is titled 'User Administration' and includes a subtitle: 'This page allows you to administer your user profile and change your password.' Below this, the user's current information is displayed: 'User Id: 136', 'Username: MS Investigator', 'Firstname:', 'Lastname:', 'Password: (blank to leave unchanged)', 'Re-enter Password:', 'Title:', 'Email:', 'Role: Investigator' (with a dropdown arrow), and 'Organization: Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute' (with a dropdown arrow). At the bottom of the form are two green buttons: 'Save' and 'Cancel'.

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User Administration

This page allows you to administer your user profile and change your password.

User Id: 136

Username: MS Investigator

Firstname:

Lastname:

Password: (blank to leave unchanged)

Re-enter Password:

Title:

Email:

Role: Investigator

Organization: Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute

Save Cancel

6.1 How to Reset your Password

Your user profile has two boxes for passwords. To change your password:

1. Enter the new password in the first Password box.
2. Re-enter the new password in the second Password box.
3. Click the Save button.

Note: All passwords must meet the following complexity standard:

- Length must be at least 7 characters
- Password must include at least 1 upper case letter, 1 lower case, 1 number, and 1 symbol.

The screenshot shows the 'User Administration' page of the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool. The page has a blue header with the Mini-Sentinel logo and the text 'Distributed Query Tool'. On the right side of the header, it says 'Welcome: MS Investigator' and 'Contact Us | Logout'. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: 'QUERIES', 'RESULTS', 'ADMINISTRATION' (which is selected), 'NETWORK', 'NOTIFICATIONS', and 'RESOURCES'. The main content area is titled 'User Administration' and includes a subtitle: 'This page allows you to administer your user profile and change your password.' Below this, the user's current information is displayed: 'User Id: 136', 'Username: MS Investigator', 'Firstname: ', 'Lastname: ', 'Password: (blank to leave unchanged)', and a password strength indicator showing 'Very poor'. Below the password field, there is a message: '4 more characters, 1 more numbers, 1 more upper case characters, 1 symbol characters'. The form also includes fields for 'Re-enter Password:', 'Title:', 'Email:', 'Role:' (a dropdown menu currently showing 'Investigator'), and 'Organization:' (a dropdown menu currently showing 'Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute'). At the bottom of the form are two green buttons: 'Save' and 'Cancel'.

Once you initially get your login credentials from the system administrator, it is highly advised that you change your password from the default password given to you.

7 Getting Help

Once logged in, the Resource Tab offers helpful contact information, documentation, and related links, as seen below.

Mini-Sentinel
Distributed Query Tool

Welcome: MS Investigator
Contact Us | Logout

QUERIES RESULTS ADMINISTRATION NETWORK NOTIFICATIONS **RESOURCES**

Resources

Contact Information

Coordinating Center Contact:
querytool@mini-sentinel.org

Lincoln Peak Partners Contact:
support@lincolnpeak.com

Documentation

[Overview and Technical Documentation](#) This document describes the overall Mini-Sentinel Distributed Querying System architecture, and details the technical and security approaches implemented.

[Investigator Manual](#) This Mini-Sentinel Investigator's Manual describes the main features and functions for Investigators participating in the network.

Related Links

[FDA Mini-Sentinel](#)

If you have trouble accessing the Web Portal or your user account, click on the Contact Us link and describe your issue to request help from the Mini-Sentinel Operations Center support staff.

8 Development and Funding Statement

The **PopMedNet™** software application was developed as part of several contracts awarded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to the HMO Research Network (HMORN) Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERT) DECIDE Center housed in the Department of Population Medicine at the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute (HPHCI). The software application has been enhanced using additional funding via the FDA Mini-Sentinel contract with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. The system was developed by Lincoln Peak Partners under the direction of HPHCI.

9 Frequently Asked Questions

This section lists some of the most frequently asked questions.

What is the difference between Groups, Organizations, and Users?

Users are individuals with various roles and associated rights within the system such as Investigator, DataMart Administrator, and System Administrator. Individual users may be part of a Group or Organization.

What are my rights as a user and how can I change them?

Rights can only be assigned to various roles by the Network Administrator. The Network Administrator can also assign rights to multiple users by giving that right to an Organization or Group.

Where can I get more information on the PopMedNet™ application?

You may contact the Operations Center for more information:

Jeffrey Brown, PhD
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute
Jeff_brown@hphc.org

When I viewed my results, I got the error message “No data available for display.”What does this mean?

The screenshot shows the 'View Results' page of the Mini-Sentinel Distributed Query Tool. The page has a navigation bar with tabs: QUERIES, RESULTS (selected), ADMINISTRATION, NETWORK, NOTIFICATIONS, and RESOURCES. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'View Results' and a subtitle says 'This page displays the results of your query.' A red message states 'No data available for display.' Below this, the 'Query Name' is 'incidence asthma 2' and the 'Submitted' time is '2/17/2011 12:26:49 PM'. The 'Query Text' is a complex SQL query: 'Select SummaryData.*, EnrollmentData.EnrollmentMembers as [Total Enrollment in Strata(Members)],round(SummaryData.Members / EnrollmentData.EnrollmentMembers * 1000, 1) as [Prevalence Rate (Users per 1000 enrollees)],round(SummaryData.Events / EnrollmentData.EnrollmentMembers * 1000, 1) as [Event Rate (Events per 1000 enrollees)]'. Below the query text, it says 'Results From: HPHCI-Summary Tables'. At the bottom, there is an 'Export to:' dropdown menu set to 'Excel' and a green 'Export' button.

This means that the sites queried had no data in their database that matched your query specifications so an empty set was returned to the portal

Appendix A: Query Administrator Role

The Query Administrator acts as a gatekeeper for all the queries coming out of an organization. Given budgeting for queries, this role can monitor query submission so that only the most relevant queries are distributed to the sites in the network.

Once an investigator within the organization submits a query, the query administrator receives an email notification about a query that is 'Pending QA Approval.' The Query Administrator then logs in with his/her login credentials. The Query Status page includes an extra column specifically for query approval.

Welcome: Query Admin Test
Contact Us | Logout

Mini-Sentinel
Distributed Query Tool

QUERIES RESULTS ADMINISTRATION NETWORK NOTIFICATIONS RESOURCES

Query Status

Click "View Details" to see query status by DataMart. You may sort queries by clicking on column titles and filter queries by type using the drop down menu.

Select Range: 30 Days


All query types

Name	ID	Submitted On	Submitted By	Status	Type
Query Administrator Test Query	631	4/1/2011 2:04:24 PM	Query Admin Test	Pending QA Approval	Prev: ICD-9 Diagnoses (3 digit codes) View Details View Query
ffrefr	630	4/1/2011 1:39:09 PM	Query Admin Test	Hold	Prev: Enrollment View Details View Query
bbbbbb	627	4/1/2011 10:17:29 AM	Liz Test	1/2 Completed	Prev: Enrollment View Details View Query
aaa	626	3/31/2011 4:37:58 PM	Liz Test	Completed	Inci: Enrollment View Details View Query
query type check	625	3/31/2011 4:26:52 PM	Query Admin Test	Completed	Prev: ICD-9 Procedures (3 digit codes) View Details View Query

By clicking 'View Query,' the query administrator views the parameters of the query. Queries may be submitted, held, or rejected by the query administrator, who can provide comments to the investigator about the query.

Developed by the Mini-Sentinel Operations Center.

The Query Administrator has an additional query notification for pending queries than investigators.



Welcome: Query Admin Test
[Contact Us](#) | [Logout](#)

[QUERIES](#)
[RESULTS](#)
[ADMINISTRATION](#)
[NETWORK](#)
[NOTIFICATIONS](#)
[RESOURCES](#)

Notification Option

This page allows you to choose Notification options.

Notification Options	Email	Description
Investigator		
Query Status Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	"Query Status Change" email notifications are sent to the person that submitted a query. These emails are sent when the "status" of processing that query has changed. Currently, there are 2 types of status changes that will trigger sending an email (Hold and Reject). Note: If you'd like to be notified when the results of your query have been uploaded, please select the notification option entitled "New Results" below.
New Results	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	"New Results" email notifications are sent to "query submitters" to alert them when the results of their queries have been uploaded by Data Mart Administrators (i.e., those data marts that don't process queries automatically).
Query Submitter Reminder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="text" value="Everyday"/>	Query Submitter Reminder" email notifications are sent to "query submitters" to alert them when one or more Data Marts have not uploaded results for the query submitted. The submitter can choose the frequency in which they want to receive the reminders from the available options ("Everyday", "Every 2 days"...). Note: The submitter will be delivered one reminder per query submitted based on the selected frequency.
Query Administrator		
New Query for Query Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Query Administrators: "New Query" email notifications are sent to the query administrators of the query submitter's organization. It alerts these administrators that a new query has been submitted and requires their action in order to process it.