



CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEM

Christiana Care shares \$4 million cardiac comparative effectiveness research grant

NEWARK, Del.—The [Christiana Care Center for Outcomes Research](#) will share in a \$4.026 million [grant](#) in a groundbreaking study to compare the effectiveness of catheter-based and surgery-based cardiac procedures.

Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, the study will set a standard for combining clinical databases with administrative databases to study the comparative effectiveness of therapies in large patient populations. [The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) (NIH) awarded the grant to the [American College of Cardiology](#) in partnership with [The Society of Thoracic Surgeons](#).

The research uses combined databases of more than 10 million patients from American College of Cardiology and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons as well as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' MEDPAR data. The data will help doctors make better decisions and improve care for patients with coronary artery disease.

The Christiana Care Center for Outcomes Research will analyze economic outcomes of the study while the Duke Clinical Research Institute will perform the analysis for clinical outcomes.

The principal investigator is William Weintraub, M.D., director of the Christiana Care Center for Outcomes Research and chair of the American College of Cardiology's National Cardiovascular Data Registry CathPCI Registry Steering Committee.

“There remains considerable uncertainty about the best strategy between catheter-based and surgery-based approaches in patients requiring revascularization for coronary artery disease and this collaboration will allow us to address this vital question,” says Dr. Weintraub. “We also will be able to address concerns about choice in critical subgroups such as elderly patients and patients with other severe diseases.”

The research and analysis techniques developed in the project can be adopted by other specialties and their professional societies, helping doctors to improve care for patients with a broad range of disorders.