# Tracking and Extracting Local Data From Electronic Health Records

## Data Tracking and Extraction Options:

### Manual Data Extraction

**Pros**
- Easy and convenient for small samples or single extracts
- Easily conducted with simple tools (e.g., Excel spreadsheets)
- Opportunity to review chart and understand data context

**Cons**
- Significant staff time required
- Workflow development and oversight required
- Challenging patient tracking and monitoring
- Prone to human error
- Non-standardized data due to data generation inconsistencies

### Automated Data Extraction

**Pros**
- No human error
- No staff time, besides initial effort
- Secure
- Little maintenance

**Cons**
- Requires informatics expertise (Knowledge of EHR infrastructure)
- Software and licenses may be required
- Data collection workflows must be in place
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