

# Research Using SlicerDicer Standard Operating Procedures

## Revision, Review and Approval History

Action	Name	Date	Notes
Initial Draft	Tamas Gal	2/13/2025	
Discussion	Evan French	2/25/2025	Discussed at Research Data Provisioning meeting
Approval	Evan French	3/4/2025	Approved after 7-day comment period

## Purpose

This document describes the approved pathways for using Epic SlicerDicer for research purposes.

## Reference Policies

The most recent version of Health System policies are available in the [VCUHS Policy Library](#) (only accessible from the VCUHS network).

Title	Organization	Policy Number
Research Honest Broker Policy	VCU Health System Authority and Affiliates	<a href="#">No number, search name</a>
Protected Health Information, Uses & Disclosures for Research Policy	VCU Health System Authority and Affiliates	<a href="#">COMP-014</a>
De-Identification of Protected Health Information Policy	VCU Health System Authority and Affiliates	<a href="#">MR.PH.004</a>
Protected Health Information, Minimum Necessary Uses and Disclosures Policy	VCU Health System Authority and Affiliates	<a href="#">No number, search name</a>

Uses and disclosures of PHI for which an authorization or opportunity to agree or object is not required	Department of Health and Human Services	<a href="#">45 CFR 164.512(i)</a>
Other Requirements Relating to Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information	Department of Health and Human Services	<a href="#">45 CFR 164.514(b)</a>
VCU/VCUHS Enterprise Data Warehouse for Research	VCU	<a href="#">HM20023298</a>

## Policy

Investigators may use SlicerDicer to assess study feasibility, obtain counts, perform limited statistical analyses, and view some de-identified, row-level information about the results of their query.

SlicerDicer may only be used for research purposes while users are logged in to Hyperspace using the Research Cohort Discovery [T00281] Job.

Clinical access may not be used to conduct research in SlicerDicer.

Investigators may request additional details about the results of SlicerDicer queries by going through the [Informatics Request Process](#).

## Definitions

Please see definitions relevant to this policy in the [glossary](#).

## Procedures

### Training

Prior to receiving access to SlicerDicer for research, users must complete the following training courses:

#### [Epic WeLearning](#)

- COG001 Overview of Reporting (4 mins)
- RPT050: Overview of SlicerDicer (4.5 mins)
- RPT051: Creating Populations in SlicerDicer (7.5 mins)
- RPT052: Comparing Populations in SlicerDicer (5.5 mins)
- RDR301: The Analytics Catalog (3 mins)

#### [VCUHS Training](#)

- VCU Health EPIC Reporting Basics SlicerDicer (20 mins)  
OR
- One hour training seminars hosted by Enterprise Analytics on Monday and Wednesday at 1pm ([Registration required](#))

## Access

After completing the training above, users must submit a request to Enterprise Analytics in [Keystone](#) requesting the Research Cohort Discovery [T00281] Job. SlicerDicer is an application within Epic Hyperspace, so Epic access is a prerequisite to using SlicerDicer.

## Querying

While logged into Hyperspace using the Research Cohort Discovery [T00281] Job, investigators may construct queries to assess study feasibility, obtain counts, and perform limited statistical analyses. Row-level data may be viewed by selecting “Detail Table and Crosstab” under the “Visual Options”. Prior to row-level data being displayed, a pop-up box will appear titled “SlicerDicer PHI Warning” and users will be prompted to select a “Reason” (Research) and enter an IRB or PROC approval number. Direct identifiers in the detail table will be obfuscated.

## Requesting Additional Data

Investigators may request additional details about the results of SlicerDicer queries by going through the [Informatics Request Process](#). The SlicerDicer query can be shared with the honest broker team to be used as the basis of the data request.

## Requesting SlicerDicer Assistance

Investigators needing assistance constructing SlicerDicer queries should attend the weekly office hours hosted by Enterprise Analytics Wednesdays at 3pm ([Registration required](#)).