Veracuity makes drugs safer with DrugBank data

ABOUT VERACUITY

Veracuity is a digital healthcare technology firm focused on advancing the safety of drugs and vaccines by upgrading the reporting system for adverse events.

Their reporting platform helps to create actionable health intelligence reports that pharmaceutical manufacturers use to improve safety compliance.

THE CHALLENGE

Veracuity is on a mission to democratize the healthcare industry's safety standards and procedures. They recognized that the process for reporting adverse events was an unsatisfactory and disjointed one-way street. Individuals who submit reports rarely saw any benefit for their contribution, and once a report was submitted there was no straightforward means of spreading that information to others who could benefit from it.

Instead of being able to learn from these reports and improve safety, the information stayed siloed and underutilized.

In their assessment of existing reporting structures Veracuity found the systems lacked rigor and detail, and would benefit from standardization. To solve this they created a consistent, closed-loop reporting system that could speed up the organization and analysis of these reports.
This full-circle reporting bridges the gaps between industry, individuals, and prescribing physicians, allowing all groups to access and benefit from the reporting process.

Further, they added vital analysis and interpretation to reports so that adverse event data can more rapidly result in safer drugs. In order for their system to effectively collect, analyze, and put out valuable reports, Veracuity needed access to highly structured and reliable drug data, and a lot of it.

Initially, they set out to source this data themselves but found numerous discrepancies and variability across platforms. Without sources that could be quickly integrated into their platform, they struggled to have a viable solution.

Veracuity was met with the arduous task of obtaining and organizing the data they would need to be successful in transforming the way drug safety information is used. To overcome this mountain of work they began to seek external sources to quicken the process. First and foremost they sought information that they didn’t easily have access to, such as FDA and DC tables, but they struggled with cumbersome analysis when different datasets did not easily align with one another.

As they continued searching for solutions they began to prioritize ones with carefully structured data that would be easily integrated into their existing systems. DrugBank fit the bill. In addition to the high-quality standards DrugBank adheres to, the immense amount of data proved to be hugely beneficial.

Specifically, Veracuity found DrugBank product concepts to be an extremely valuable tool in enabling their drug searches. This comprehensive functionality allows users to search drugs at multiple levels of criteria including by name, route, dosage, and other product parameters. They also incorporated a wide range of DrugBank datasets including pharmacogenomics and drug interactions into their platform.

“One of the biggest benefits for us in going with DrugBank has been how they structure their data,” reflects Sreeram Penna, Veracuity Founder and Chief Medical Officer. “That, and how comprehensive and easy it is to use their interaction and pharmacogenomics data.”
THE RESULTS

For Veracuity, working with DrugBank eliminates the need for them to spend excessive time sourcing and structuring their own datasets, which would be a prohibitively time-consuming and expensive process. Instead, DrugBank data has allowed them to focus their energy on where they can make the most impact.

Currently, their team is using DrugBank data to improve the feedback loop for reporting adverse events, standardizing reporting, and ensuring that their output is both accurate and accessible to everyone involved.

By redeveloping the medical industry’s tracking and management of adverse event reporting, Veracuity is creating a system where information rapidly and freely moves from individuals to those who can make the biggest impact on drug safety. Where once safety reports would end up siloed and underutilized, they are now being used effectively and industry-wide.

“DrugBank’s focus on pharmacogenomics and their ability to capture so much information about it is impressive. I don’t think any other sources give drug interactions the way they do.”

— Sreeram Penna, Founder & Chief Medical Officer

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