



ARTICLE

FROM REAL-WORLD DATA TO REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE

Why healthcare's most abundant resource remains its least credible – and how Circle changes that.

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THE PROMISE THAT FELL SHORT

Real-world data (RWD) was meant to revolutionize medicine. It promised insight at scale – observational power beyond the limits of traditional trials. With billions of patient records, healthcare should have achieved continuous evidence generation by now.

It hasn't. Instead, most RWD initiatives have stalled under the weight of inconsistency, incompleteness, and irreproducibility. The gap between **data** and **evidence** remains wide – and widening. The reason is structural: real-world data is not real-world evidence until it can **prove itself**.

THE MISSING INGREDIENT: DESIGN

Most RWD is retrospective – collected for billing or documentation, not for discovery. Its variables are inconsistent, its timing uncontrolled, and its context missing. That makes it descriptive but not scientific.

Evidence, by contrast, requires design:

- **Standardized definitions.**
- **Controlled timepoints.**
- **Linked outcomes.**
- **Traceable provenance.**

Without design, even the largest datasets cannot answer a single regulatory question with confidence.

THE CIRCLE CONVERSION PROCESS

The **Circle Method** closes this gap by converting raw clinical observation into structured, verifiable evidence.

Each **Observational Protocol (OP)** acts as a *conversion mechanism*:

- It specifies what data to capture and when.
- It enforces terminology and unit consistency.
- It links each observation to consent and outcome metadata.
- It validates records in real time through cryptographic lineage tracking.

This turns fragmented RWD into **auditable RWE** – datasets that satisfy the reproducibility, integrity, and traceability standards required by the FDA, EMA, and other regulators.

REPRODUCIBILITY AS COMPLIANCE

Regulators no longer accept volume as proof; they require verification. The FDA's 2024 RWE framework and EMA's Good Machine Learning Practice (GMLP) guidelines emphasize **traceable data lineage and real-world reproducibility**.

Circle's architecture automates this compliance by embedding proof into the data structure itself. Every record in a Circle dataset carries its validation state, provenance, and versioning. Evidence generation and regulatory readiness occur simultaneously – not sequentially.

This makes compliance a **byproduct of design, not documentation**.

THE MULTI-DOMAIN IMPACT

The ability to convert RWD to RWE has implications far beyond regulation:

- **Clinicians** gain access to longitudinal outcome data that supports precision care.
- **Researchers** can replicate studies across sites without manual data cleaning.
- **Payers** receive verifiable evidence to support reimbursement decisions.
- **AI developers** train on datasets that reflect verified clinical truth, not administrative noise.

Every stakeholder benefits when the same data that powers operations can also stand up to audit.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME

The healthcare industry's next transformation will not come from collecting more data, but from **proving the data it already has**. Circle's protocol-driven architecture makes this possible by turning documentation into evidence and observation into proof.

When data can validate itself, every use case – clinical, regulatory, or computational – inherits credibility.

The result is an ecosystem where **real-world data finally earns its name**.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Stakeholder	Practical Implication
Clinicians & Researchers	Convert care documentation into evidence by applying standardized observational protocols.
Health Systems	Build RWE generation into workflows to meet compliance requirements automatically.
Regulators & Investors	Recognize verified RWE as the foundation for safe, scalable AI and value-based medicine.

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