**Getting Started with DeGAUSS**

**What is DeGAUSS and why does the PAC3 registry want to use it?**

The DeGAUSS tool is a decentralized geocoding tool that was developed at the University of Cincinnati. It uses a container software called Docker and allows each member institution of PAC3to extract information pertaining to socioeconomic disparities on each of their patients in the registry in a HIPAA-compliant manner. The tool allows centers to extract various variables that are referred to as “images” from national databases including the US Census and American Community Survey including deprivation index, distance to hospital from home, and air pollution. This allows hospitals to safely share demographic variables on multihospital registry projects without sharing any PHI such as a zip code.

You can read more about DeGAUSS on their homepage [here](https://degauss.org/index.html).

You can read more about DeGAUSS images, which contain the actual demographic variables, [here](https://degauss.org/available_images.html).

**Where will the Docker software be stored?**

The Docker software is downloaded to the work computer of everyone in your department that will be using the software. Most of the time, it will be a PAC3 data champion and/or a data analyst or data manager within your department.

Docker works on all operating systems, but please note that directions for how to install the software and how to run DeGAUSS differ for Mac and PC users. Directions on how to install Docker are [here](https://degauss.org/using_degauss.html) .

**How much does the Docker software and/or use of the DeGAUSS tool cost?**

Free. If you click on anything that asks for payment, that is the wrong link and wrong product.

**Where can IT inquire about documentation and security for the Docker software to approve its use?**

Please contact the Docker customer support web page [here](https://www.docker.com/company/contact). If you scroll down to “Support & Documentation” and click on “Docker Docs” that page might have the documentation your IT is looking for. Otherwise, click on “Contact Support”. In addition please reference our **DeGAUSS FAQs sheet.**

**Can I watch a presentation or demo about DeGAUSS to better understand where it will fit in the framework of our registry work?**

Yes! Dr. Cole Brokamp, the creator of this tool, presented at the Spring 2021 PAC3 Conference which you can see [here](https://cchmc.sharepoint.com/%3Av%3A/r/sites/pac3/Style%20Library/Conferences/Spring%202021%20Virtual%20Conference/Conference%20Recordings/PAC3_Path%203-%20Network%20Wide%20QI%20Project%20Announcement.mp4?csf=1&web=1&e=TKUqtg). His presentation starts at 7:32.

**My department approved the use of Docker and it’s been downloaded on my computer and I’m ready to go! How do I use DeGAUSS?**

Read carefully about how to geocode [here](https://degauss.org/pac3.html). Again, rules for Mac versus PC users will be a bit different.

You can also view a video of the PAC3 data manager running this tool using the geocoder image and the deprivation index image [here](https://cchmc.sharepoint.com/%3Av%3A/r/sites/pac3/AnalyticsReports/DeGAUSS/DeGauss%20Image%20Tutorial.mp4?csf=1&web=1&e=lh3ywh). You can also access the video directly on Sharepoint by clicking on “Registry” on the left-hand side of the screen when you sign in and then click on the “DeGAUSS” folder.

Note that when you use the DeGAUSS tool, you **MUST** run your baseline spreadsheet with the patient IDs (the same as PAC3/PC4 patient IDs) and patient addresses through the geocoder image first to get census tract information before running it through the other images that have actual demographic information such as dep\_index, drivetime, etc. The video demonstrates this.