

Standard Definitions for Patient Outcome Data Elements

Outcome: Discharge Reasons

Data Element	Definition	Additional Information/ Examples
<p>Discharge Reason</p>	<p>Select the best reason describing why the patient is being discharged from home infusion services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapy Complete • Patient Expired • Unplanned Hospitalization • Change in Eligibility • Insufficient Response/Complication • Adverse Drug Reaction • Access Device Related • Changed Infusion Provider • Other: _____ 	<p>Therapy Complete applies to any patient who is discharged from services because they no longer require infusion therapy.</p> <p>This discharge status is applied to patients when the physician has ordered discontinuation of the infusion therapy because the patient has achieved sufficient clinical improvement and/or has met the goals in the plan of care.</p> <p>The following are examples of patients who are considered “Therapy Complete” at the time of discharge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A patient for whom a physician order is received to end home infusion treatment. • A hospice or palliative care patient who expires expectedly and under ordinary circumstances. • A patient, who during the infusion episode of care experienced a “<i>Serious</i>” ADR, but resumed treatment and completes the prescribed regimen. <p>Patient Expired refers to patients expiring unrelated to home infusion therapy. If a patient death occurs as a result of the infusion therapy, this should be reported as a serious ADR.</p> <p>Change in Eligibility includes, but is not limited to; unsafe home environment, lack of caregiver support, reimbursement challenges, lack of desire for home treatment, or unable to comply with home treatment orders.</p> <p>Examples of patients discharged because of a <i>change in eligibility</i> include:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A patient who changes insurance plans requiring infusions to be give in another site of care such as an outpatient clinic or physician office. • A patient who transfers to a skilled facility due to a lack of caregiver support in the home setting. <p>Insufficient Response includes exacerbations of diagnosis and/or symptoms being treated with home infusion therapy.</p> <p>An example of a patient who would be discharged because of an <i>insufficient response</i> to therapy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A patient with osteomyelitis requires amputation of a limb after receiving several weeks of treatment with parenteral anti-infectives without improvement. <p>Changed Infusion Provider refers to situations where the current infusion provider is unable to meet the patient’s needs.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient requires a drug that cannot be acquired due to sole source distribution or shortages. • A patient who moves outside of the infusion provider’s service area. • Patient chose a different provider. • The infusion provider is not in network with the patient’s payer source.

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BACKGROUND

The Standard Definitions for Patient Outcome Data Elements are presented by the National Home Infusion Foundation to home and specialty infusion providers for use when collecting data related to patient events as part of ongoing quality improvement activities. These definitions were developed by a volunteer-based Outcomes Task Force comprised of individual provider and business-firm members committed to the utilization of quality data to advance the infusion industry. Standardized definitions will allow providers to engage in industry-wide benchmarking and research activities, generating the necessary data for demonstrating the quality and value associated with administering infused medications in the home and alternate site settings. Providers are encouraged to adopt the NHIF Patient Outcome Definitions to become eligible for participation in industry-wide quality data initiatives.

IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

Providers may use additional, more detailed categories than those proposed in the above *“Discharge Reasons”* definition. The NHIF data elements are designed to consolidate data into broader categories to facilitate comparisons across different providers. For example: The reason *“Change in Eligibility”* encompasses many elements that impact whether or not a patient can receive home infusion services, such as caregiver status, reimbursement challenges, or loss of vascular access. Providers may wish to use more specific reasons at an organizational level; however the more detailed data would be mapped to the broader category for national reporting purposes.

NHIF recognizes that individual providers use a variety of software systems and processes to collect data, and understands that differences exist with regard to the clinical terminology used today. NHIF knows that some adaptation may need to occur to achieve standardization with these outcome data elements; however the Outcomes Task Force made every effort to develop data definitions that are broad enough to accommodate variations in software and data collection processes between providers.

REPORTING DATA

The National Home Infusion Foundation (NHIF) is administering industry-wide benchmarking programs that utilize the Patient Outcome Data Elements proposed by NHIF. Providers that have adopted the standard NHIF definitions will be able to participate in benchmarking initiatives. Participation in benchmarking is highly encouraged as a means of evaluating one’s performance compared to industry norms and standards. Benchmarking is a well established method of improving quality, demonstrating value, and identifying best practices.

QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS

Questions or comments regarding the Standard Definitions for Patient Outcome Data Elements should be directed to NHIFdata@nhia.org.

For additional information about the NHIF Benchmarking Initiatives, please visit the NHIF website at <http://bit.ly/nhif-benchmarking-initiatives>.