



### Standard Definitions for Patient Outcome Data Elements

**Outcome: Emergency Department Use**

Data Element	Definition	Additional Information/ Examples
<b>Emergency Department Use</b>	Any use of the Emergency Department for immediate treatment, which does not result in an inpatient admission.	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A patient self-reports to the Emergency Department for treatment of a rash appearing after administration of an infused medication.</li> <li>• A patient is told to report to the Emergency Department by their physician to be evaluated for a suspected access device associated DVT.</li> </ul>
<b>“Infusion Related” Emergency Department Use</b>	Emergency Department Use is <b>“related”</b> to the infusion therapy when it occurs in response to an event associated with the infused medication, access device, administration method, or the diagnosis and/or symptoms being treated.	<p>The following are examples of events that would be considered “infusion related” if they result in Emergency Department Use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A patient reports to the Emergency Department after developing severe shortness of breath during an infusion of IgG.</li> <li>• A patient reports to the Emergency Department to have their occluded access device evaluated and treated.</li> </ul>
<b>“Infusion Unrelated” Emergency Department Use</b>	Emergency Department Use is <b>“unrelated”</b> to the infusion therapy when it occurs in response to an event that is NOT associated with the infused medication, access device, administration method or the diagnosis and/or symptoms being treated.	<p>The following are examples of events that would be considered “unrelated” to the infusion therapy if they result in the Emergency Department Use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A patient is evaluated in the Emergency Department for treatment of injuries resulting from a car accident.</li> <li>• A patient receiving IgG weekly reports to the emergency department for extreme emesis and dehydration post chemotherapy treatment received in the oncology clinic.</li> </ul>

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<b>Emergency Department Use Reasons</b>	<p>For <b><i>“Infusion Related”</i></b> events only, select the best, most applicable reason for the emergency department use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverse Event- Infused Drug Related</li> <li>• Adverse Event- Equipment Related</li> <li>• Adverse Event – Access Device Infection</li> <li>• Adverse Event – Access Device Related - Other than Infection</li> <li>• Change in Eligibility</li> <li>• Insufficient response</li> <li>• Unknown Reason</li> <li>• Other: _____</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>“Change in eligibility”</i></b> includes, but is not limited to: unsafe home environment, lack of caregiver support, reimbursement challenges, loss of IV access, desire for home treatment or unable to comply with home treatment orders.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖ ❖</p> <p><b><i>“Insufficient Response”</i></b> includes exacerbations of diagnosis and/or symptoms being treated with home infusion therapy.</p>
<b>Emergency Department Use Outcomes</b>	<p>Select the outcome that best describes the impact of the “Emergency Department Use” on the home infusion episode.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of home infusion services with no interruption</li> <li>• Interruption of services, followed by resumption of care with therapy changes</li> <li>• Interruption of services, followed by resumption of care without therapy changes</li> <li>• Home Infusion services discontinued</li> </ul>	<p>An <b><i>interruption in therapy</i></b> occurs when the scheduled dose of an infusion medication is significantly delayed or missed.</p>



National Home Infusion Foundation

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### BACKGROUND

The Standard Definitions for Patient Outcome Data Elements are presented by the National Home Infusion Foundation (NHIF) 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 setting. Providers are encouraged to adopt the NHIF Patient Outcome Definitions to become eligible for participation in future industry-wide quality data initiatives.

### IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

Providers may use additional, more detailed reasons than those proposed in the above *“Emergency Department Use”* 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 IV 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](mailto:NHIFdata@nhia.org).

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