

NHIA/NHIF Research Topic Examples

Patient Research

1. Topic: A descriptive study evaluating social, cultural, and economic diversity within the home infusion patient population.
 - Methodology: Retrospective record review, qualitative interview, observational
 - Abstract Submission/Manuscript Type: Case Study, Descriptive Report, Health Economic Analyses, Primer
 - Possible data variables:
 - Payer type (as a proxy for economic status)
 - Medicaid eligible
 - Not Medicaid eligible
 - Ethnicity
 - NHIA standard categories ([link](#))
 - Cultural
 - Religious affiliations
 - Education level
 - Why is this important?

No studies have been published describing the composition of patients utilizing home infusion services. Understanding disparities in access to health care services based on social, cultural, or economic circumstances can be used to improve overall health in minority and under-served populations. In addition, identifying gaps in populations where home infusion is under-utilized will assist providers in developing resources to improve access to care.

2. Topic: A cross-sectional qualitative study of patient literacy using an assessment tool among home infusion patients.
 - Methodology: Qualitative, interview, survey, pre/post analysis
 - Abstract submission type/Study type: Health Economic Analyses, Practice Research Report, Primer
 - Possible data variables:
 - Develop plans for the identification of gaps in patient literacy
 - Design educational programs in the home and alternate site setting.
 - Assess for effectiveness and outcomes.
 - Why is this important:

Patient literacy levels in home infusion are proportional to improved outcomes. Therefore, a pre/post analysis with structured interview questions can provide valuable insight into best practices for innovative clinical services performed by nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, technicians, and other infusion professionals.

Nursing/Pharmacy/Clinical Research

3. Topic: A descriptive study evaluating length of therapy among patients utilizing home-based OPAT for cellulitis (or choose).

- Methodology: Retrospective record review, observational
- Abstract Submission/Manuscript Type: Case Study, Clinical Research Report, Clinical Review, Descriptive Report, Practice Research Report
- Potential data variables:
 - Start date
 - Discharge date
 - Orders to extend therapy
 - Anti-microbial used
 - Diagnosis

- Why is this important?

No real-world data exists describing the length of therapy for home-based OPAT. Management of complicated infections may involve off-label use of FDA-approved anti-microbials, and treatment may, at times be extended beyond the duration in the package labeling. Understanding trends in selection and utilization of common anti-microbials will assist in developing best-practice standards for anti-microbial stewardship for home-based OPAT.

4. Topic: A comparative analysis of administration methods of biologic medications initially indicated for IV administration and later transitioned to subcutaneous administration.

- Methodology: Observational or interventional research, retrospective record review, qualitative (interview)
- Abstract submission type/Study types: Case Report, Case Study, Clinical Research Report, Descriptive Report
- Possible data variables:
 - Example medication: infliximab IV to SC
 - Analyze for adverse drug reactions (ADRs); what are the frequency of ADRs, was there a difference in response to treatment, what was the impact on nursing, what was the patient preference, and why? (e.g., autonomy)

- Why is this important:

Evaluating newly adopted medication administration information is vital to patient safety and adherence. By studying the comparison of administration routes or method, this research can influence future study design, identify areas for safety and improve patient access to services.

Transitions of care

5. Topic: Time to start of care for specialty medications looking at both the therapy, payer, employee processes, etc.
 - Methodology: Observational or interventional research, retrospective record review, pre/post study design
 - Abstract submission type/Study type(s): Descriptive Report, Health Economic Analyses, Med-Use Technology
 - Possible data variables:
 - Identify staff training gaps
 - Physician office education (i.e., documentation needs)
 - Revenue management best practices and tools
 - Why is this important:

Studying the amount of time it takes for a patient to start a medication offers valuable insight into analytical techniques to assist decision-making and promote efficiency and equity. In addition, it may highlight or recognize a need related to resource utilization.

Revenue Cycle

6. Topic: A retrospective review of the patient's out-of-pocket costs and the variance measured for three (X) years.
 - Methodology: Retrospective analysis,
 - Abstract submission type/Study type: Descriptive Report, Health Economic Analyses
 - Possible data variables:
 - This could be a revenue cycle retrospective review of financial records over a 3–5-year period looking at various therapy types or knowing the therapy types, patient age, the payor (commercial vs. government)
 - Why is this important:

There needs to be published data on the impact of patient costs for home infusion medication and services. Studies in home infusion organizations can introduce a thought process that recognizes scarcity and the need to make choices related to available resources.