



Standard Definitions for Patient Outcome Data Elements

Outcome: Home Infusion Medication Adherence

Data Element	Definition ¹⁻⁴	Additional Information/ Examples
Adherence	<p>Medication adherence is defined as the extent to which a person’s behavior corresponds with taking a medication optimally, conforming to a provider’s recommendation/prescription based on timing, dosage, and frequency of medication administration. Adherence can be measured/assessed in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Direct observation</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A healthcare provider is present for and/or administers medication. ○ Serum level and laboratory evaluation ○ Technology used incorporates administration measurements (e.g. electronic infusion pumps capable of verifying administration). • <u>Indirect reporting</u>: Self-reported by the patient or caregiver during routine patient assessments either by a pharmacist and/or nurse. 	<p>Adherence is vital to achieving therapeutic goals, improving patient outcomes in chronic disease management, and reducing mortality from chronic conditions. Conversely, non-adherence leads to higher rates of hospital admissions, suboptimal health outcomes, increased morbidity and mortality, and increased health care costs.</p> <p>Example Measures: A ratio of the number of drug doses administered to the number of doses prescribed over a given timeframe.</p> <p>Measures of reasons for nonadherence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient choice • Patient not available • Lack of vascular access • Adverse event • Cost/coverage • Medication not available at dose/time scheduled • Ancillary supplies not available • Pump event • Nurse availability • Caregiver availability • Unknown reason

References (DOI): ¹ doi: 10.1016/j.sapharm.2021.08.006; ² doi: 10.3390/pharmacy10050106; ³ doi: 10.1111/j.1524-4733.2007.00213.x; ⁴ doi: 10.2147/PPA.S86249.



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 committee 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 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 definitions. The NHIF data elements are designed to consolidate data into broader categories to facilitate comparisons across different providers. 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 committee 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>.