Patient Charts: A Rich Source of Data

Patient charts provide a rich source of demographic, clinical, resource use, and treatment data that can be assessed in a standardized manner across countries. When retrospective claims data are inadequate or not available, and prospective observational studies are not feasible, chart data can be a cost-effective solution for health outcomes research studies.

Studies Using Chart Data

We have designed and implemented chart review studies in North America, Europe, and Asia. Patient chart data can be used to answer complex research questions and support a variety of research objectives.

Chart Data Uses:

- Describing prescribing and treatment patterns
- Evaluating disease progression, survival, and treatment response
- Evaluating clinical characteristics of disease
- Assessing health care resource utilization
- Developing country-specific economic endpoints to populate cost-effectiveness or budget impact models

Customizable Solutions

Chart review studies allow significant control in selecting a target patient population. To abstract the chart data, we work with physicians who are members of proprietary access panels or can be identified through provider directories. To find patients appropriate for each study, we select sites and physicians based on their specialties, years in practice, case load, and practice setting, such as hospital, private practice, or specialty treatment centers.

Charts Combined with Other Data Collection Methods

Chart data can be linked with data collected from patient surveys or other means. The charts may provide baseline data to help give a more complete picture of patient outcomes.
See How We’ve Helped Others

We conducted a multinational study to document treatment patterns and prognostic indicators of response to therapy among patients with chronic myeloid leukemia in Australia, Canada, and South Korea. The study results were published in *Current Medical Research & Opinion*. 2015 Feb;31(2):299-314.

Using data from medical charts, we described the use of basal insulin and the associated clinical outcomes among elderly nursing home residents in the US with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Study results were published in *Clinical Interventions in Aging*. 2014 Oct 23;9:1815-22.

By analyzing data from medical charts in Spain, we assessed the economic burden of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma in Spain among patients discontinuing first-line sorafenib. Results from this study were presented at the Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium of the American Society of Clinical Oncology; January 2014, San Francisco, CA.

Multinational Partners

**Chart Abstraction**

In order to provide you with access to charts in major markets, we have developed strong relationships with a multinational network of organizations that have chart abstraction capabilities.

**Ethics Process Management**

Ethics submission requirements and timelines vary greatly by country. We partner with a multinational network of organizations with professional local contacts who expertly navigate the ethics submission process in each study country. Based on our experience, we can provide information to develop realistic timelines for completion of activities, and in turn assist with developing a country list that will meet your timeline objectives.

Our quality assurance processes ensure that each partner meets our high standards. Our reputation for excellence gives you confidence that when you collaborate with us, your studies will be implemented with scientific rigor and deliverables will be provided on time and within budget.

Our Systematic Approach for Chart Abstraction Projects:

**Start-Up**

- Determine study endpoints based on research objectives
- Develop study protocol
- Create CRFs and data collection forms
- Ethics review and associated activities

**Implement**

- Translate and program CRF
- Screen and recruit physicians
- Abstract chart data
- Clean and validate data
- Develop the analysis plan and table shells
- Monitor fieldwork activity

**Analysis and Reports**

- Program and analyze data
- Develop study reports
- Prepare materials for external dissemination of results (e.g., posters, manuscripts)