

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS AND TRIUMPHS OF SETTING UP AN OUTCOME DATABASE IN PRIVATE PRACTICE OUTPATIENT PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINIC

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Purpose: To share with members how we have developed a system to collect outcome data in an orthopaedic outpatient PT practice in order to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and patient care delivered by the physical therapists and to develop an infrastructure to launch clinical research trials. **Description:** We have developed a patient database to track patient outcomes using 4 valid regional scales; Lower Extremity Functional Scale, quick DASH, Oswestry, and Neck Disability Index. We currently have 2238 patients in the data base with 278 diagnoses. We will describe some of the options we have tried to collect and summarize the data. Use of front desk staff and technician in the process **Summary of Use:** This process has changed the practice of this clinic in three important ways. First, there is now information to the treating therapist as to how their patient perceives their level of function in a more measurable manner. Second, the clinician is provided feedback on how groups of patients are improving over the course of care from reports generated from the database. Thirdly, the therapists have now modified their note writing to include more specific functional goals based on survey forms and actually decreased note writing volume. **Importance:** Evidence-based and Performance-based reimbursements are current topics in health care that we are all attempting to address. We want to share our approach to our colleagues to help them with a template and for feedback on improving our own system.