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THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IRB APPROVED INTEGRATIVE MODEL TO IMPROVE PAIN MANAGEMENT

Our society’s overuse of opiates while failing to manage chronic pain has necessitated a paradigm shift in the way that we treat it. After exhaustive analysis, the DoD’s Pain Management Task Force and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) came to the same conclusion that there is a need for improved integrative care and professional collaboration, to make discovery, and to discern comparative effectiveness of various treatment options and modalities. To this end, Patient Outcomes Analytics (POA) LLC, a research organization, has developed an integrative model to improve pain management. This model brings together entities that include a research organization with scientists, a commissioning pharmacy, an Institutional Review Board (IRB), information technology experts and computer programmers, prescribing physicians, a clinical assessment team (CAT), and an outcomes research organization. Each plays a vital role to ensure better outcomes for chronic pain patients that are using personalized transdermal pain creams. Patients take an online Outcomes survey to monitor pain, quality of life and other metrics before and after 1 and 4 weeks of using their cream. Unusual values such as increasing in pain and adverse effects are validated by CAT and communicated to pharmacists and physicians who will decide on the next course of therapy. The data is analyzed by POA scientists, validated by an outcomes research company, and presented on a doctors’ portal site where physicians can monitor the progress of their patients’ treatments. This model is successfully used in an ongoing outcomes survey which assesses the efficacy of personalized transdermal pain creams on chronic pain patients. Valuable data has been generated on the ability of non-opioid based transdermal pain creams to reduce pain, improve quality of life and reduce the use of oral pain medication in chronic pain patients.

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