

Chart Abstraction Study to Develop Standard Questions

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to make a recommendation on standardization of commonly collected chart abstraction variables. Some measure of uniformity would increase efficiency in developing abstraction forms as well as data collection, data entry, and comparison of results across studies.

Procedures

The abstraction forms from fifteen studies were reviewed to determine how they collected information on the following variables.

- Age
- Date of Birth
- Gender/Sex
- Race
- Height
- Weight
- Marital status
- Smoking status
- Age at Menarche
- Menopausal Status

The studies included HMO RN studies (CERT and CRN) as well as Group Health only studies. We looked across studies to determine a common way to collect information on the above variables. From there we developed recommendations. A list of the studies is included in the appendix.

Recommendations

Age

The majority of studies did not collect age, instead preferred to collect DOB.

- Recommendation: None

Date of Birth

Asking for mm/dd/yyyy is the most common way to collect date of birth information in the studies we looked it.

- Recommendation:
MM/DD/YYYY

One caveat is for studies sending data off site, to protect patient's identity, it may be necessary to eliminate the day and just use mm/yyyy.

Gender

There was not a clear standard way to collect gender information. However, the study staff would recommend a standard pre-coding of male and female without using a 0.

- Recommendation: pre-code male and female, do not use 0 in coding.

Race

Need to look at psaty studies

Height

Height was asked a variety of ways, but the most inclusive was to include both feet and inches and centimeters and the date collected. The recommendation is to use inches and centimeters on the data collection form and have the abstractor circle the correct measure.

- Recommendation: inches/centimeters include date collected

___ ___ ___ inches/Centimeters

MM/DD/YYYY

Weight

The most common way to collect weight among the studies is by asking both pounds and kilograms and the date. The recommendation is to use pounds and kilograms on the data collection form and have the abstractor circle the correct measure.

- Recommendation: lbs/kg, include the date

___ ___ ___ lbs/kg

MM/DD/YYYY

Marital status

Our studies asked about marital status in a variety of ways. Studies that were looking at social support as a variable were trying to capture as much information as they could about a person's living situation. The Act study had 10 categories for marital status. And one study was only interested in if the subject was married, divorced, or other. Most of the other studies fell somewhere in between. The following is the recommendation based on the studies where social support was not a major focus of the study.

- Recommendation:
Married/partnered
Widowed
Divorced/separated
Single
Other
Unkown

Smoking

Again smoking was asked about in a variety of ways and on studies where smoking was a primary focus, there were more detailed questions. The following recommendation was based on the studies where smoking was not the primary focus. (based on someone's scale?)

- Recommendation:
No history available
Never smoked
Former smoker.....How many years ago did they quite
Current smoker.....what is the average number of cigarettes smoked in a day.
Unknown

Age of Menarche

The exact age is often not available within the chart therefore having a range of ages on the form is important. This information is found documented on breast cancer screening forms and in female health care visits. Preference is to find exact age if possible. The earlier in a woman's life this information is reported; the more accurate it is likely to be.

Some studies may need more defined categories.

- Recommendation:
_____ Age in years (if stated) or a range

01=10 yrs or younger
02=11 -14 years
03=15 yrs or older

Menopausal status

This was so variable among the studies and depending on the research question could include a large amount of detail. We do not have a recommendation.

The Studies

Abstraction forms from the following studies were included in this analysis.

Adult Changes in Thought (ACT)
Original Cancors
DAHRT
Prophy Mast
CDC Arthritis

ECO
Pancreatic Cancer
Pathways
Student Project on...
Endo Case f/u
Estrogen replacement after MI
CERT/ allopurinaol
RAMI
CERT /Lotronex
CRN/5cfsbreast