

Scope of Outpatient Practice

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Purpose: The purpose of this study is to acquire a general understanding of outpatient visits to the practices of the Residency Research Network of Texas.

Study Aims: To describe the demographics of the RRNeT patient population, their reasons for visits, common diagnoses, medicines and other services ordered, and referral patterns. A second aim is to determine methods of electronic communication used by our patients, including their use of cell phones, internet, and e-mail.

Subjects: This is a study of family medicine visits in the outpatient setting. These include visits with any patient (or patient's parent or guardian) who consents to documentation of the visit for research purposes. Study patients may include infants, children, adolescents, adults, and seniors.

Design: This is a cross-sectional survey of patients and primary care visits. This study uses two data collection tools. The first is a one-page patient survey that records patient demographics, including age, gender, race/ethnicity, and health insurance status. The other instrument, a visit survey, is comprised of questions pertaining to the patients' access to electronic communication such as cell phones and home computers.

Summer 2011: Medical students have carefully documented nearly 800 outpatient visits across our network.