The Tachygraphic Color-Organized Medication Study (TCOM)

TCOM is a research study conducted by the PCRI. The goal of the study is to assess whether an established system of medication labels increases the accuracy of identifying medications and their intended purposes.

The long term goal of this study is to reduce medication errors by incorporating a visual aid onto medication bottles as an adjunct to current national multidisciplinary efforts. The TCOM study will be conducted in two phases: focus groups and a pre-post test.

Focus groups have been conducted during which participants provided feedback on the preliminary medication symbol system for each of the 16 different medication classifications (Phase 1). The medication labels have been refined based on these recommendations.

Currently, we are conducting Phase 2 which consists of testing the refined labels for accuracy in correctly identifying medications and their purpose. The TCOM study is projected to be completed by April 2010.

(PIs: R Cardarelli & C Mann; Funded by: *the American Academy of Family Physicians)*

NORTEX PROJECTS

Current NorTex Studies

North Texas Healthy Heart (NTHH)

Part I of the North Texas Healthy Heart Study (NTHH) consisted of 371 participants who had their first visit between April 2006—June 2007. Of these 371 participants, 233 returned for a repeat study between May 2008 and June 2009. Additional tests were included in this second visit consisting of: a 3-hour glucose tolerance test for non-diabetic participants; an accelerometer worn for four days; four questionnaires (food frequency, activity, sleep, and pregnancy); EKG; CT scan of the heart and abdomen; and cash compensation. Participants in this group are three years into the study which is their final year.

(NTHH continued)

Part II participants to the this Study were processed between December 2007 and May 2008 and consisted of 200 subjects. They will be eligible to come back for a repeat study starting in January 2010. To date; 38 have already been scheduled. Procedures are basically similar with the following exceptions: glucose tolerance test; wearing the accelerometer; food frequency questionnaire; and CT of the abdomen.

Fibromyalgia Study Begins

The Primary Care Research Institute has taken on a new research study entitled "Fibromyalgia in Primary Care Practice". This study is funded by the Professional and Continuing Educations (PACE) office of the UNT Health Science Center and the Pfizer Medical Education group.

The purpose of this study is to conduct a performance improvement activity among NorTex clinician members on fibromyalgia and will be conducted in three phases. Phase I will survey clinicians about their knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about fibromyalgia. A chart review will be conducted to determine clinician practices for diagnosing and treating fibromyalgia.

During Phase II, clinicians will receive a tailored educational intervention about fibromyalgia specific to the results of their survey and chart reviews. Lastly, Phase III will include resurveying the clinicians to assess the impact of the tailored educational intervention on clinician knowledge, attitudes and beliefs through re-survey and also using a pre-test and post test study design.

Each participating clinician will have the opportunity to earn up to 20 hours of CME credit for participating in the entire study. Recruitment began in November and includes Family Practice and Internal Medicine clinicians within NorTex.