

# Development of a Data Abstraction Form: Getting What You Need From the Electronic Health Record

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## KEY WORDS

Chart review, data abstraction form, data collection, electronic health record, evidence-based practice, retrospective, research

The electronic health record (EHR) serves a variety of purposes for the health care provider, including documentation of care; ensuring communication, safety, and quality of care; legal documentation; and research- and evidence-based practice. The [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(2016\)](#) notes that the EHR has been effective in transforming the quality, safety, and efficiency of care delivery in health care. In our previous work, we noted that much of the focus of the EHR is on data entry by the health care provider; however, data can also be abstracted for the purposes

of research and quality improvement ([Spratling & Powers, 2015](#)). In this article we describe what we have learned from constructing a data abstraction form for collection of information from the EHR focused on a sample of children who require medical technology and suggest ways to better gather data for research and evidence-based practice.

## DEVELOPMENT OF A DATA ABSTRACTION FORM

Children who require medical technology demand increased care because of their need for life-supportive technology on a daily basis ([Lindahl & Lindblad, 2013](#); [Russell & Simon, 2014](#); [Simon et al., 2010](#)). Little is known about the technology needs and health care use of this population. Thus, a study was designed using a retrospective review of the EHR to examine sociodemographic and clinical factors and to identify common health problems that led to emergency department (ED) visits and hospitalizations in a sample of children who require medical technology to gain a better understanding of their health care needs.

As part of this study, a data abstraction form was developed to collect data from the EHR of patients at a technology-dependent pulmonary clinic in a pediatric health care system in the southeastern United States. All

We describe what we have learned from constructing a data abstraction form for collection of information from the EHR...and suggest ways to better gather data for research and evidence-based practice.

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**TABLE 1. Data abstraction form**

<b>Face sheet</b>	
Participant number	Please note corresponding name and number on separate roster.
What is the child's age at time of data collection?	Please note in years. (If child less than 3 years of age, note age in months and designate with m.)
What city and state is listed as address?	Please see provided map. 1 = 25 miles or less from clinic 2 = greater than 25 miles and less than 100 miles 3 = 100 miles or greater from clinic
What is the gender?	1 = female 2 = male
What is the race/ethnicity?	1 = Hispanic/Latino of any race 2 = Non-Hispanic/Latino only 3 = American Indian or Alaska Native 4 = Asian 5 = Black or African American 6 = Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 7 = White 8 = Two or more races
<b>Clinic note/data sheet</b>	
What is the chronic medical diagnosis(es)?	Please note list in clinic note.
Classify primary pulmonary condition as airway, lung, or both?	1 = airway 2 = lung 3 = both
What size is the tracheostomy?	Note size and Shiley tracheostomy tubes, Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN, or Bivona tracheostomy products, Smiths Medical, Dublin, OH (i.e., 3.5 Shiley).
If applicable, what is the level of subglottic stenosis?	1 = grade 1 2 = grade 2 3 = grade 3 4 = grade 4
At what age was the tracheostomy placed?	Please note in years. (If child less than 3 years of age, note age in months and designate with m.)
How long have they had the tracheostomy?	Subtract age tracheostomy placed from current age.
What respiratory assistance is associated with the tracheostomy?	Passy-Muir Tracheostomy & Ventilator Swallowing & Speaking Valve, Irvine, CA: 0 = no; 1 = yes Humidified Trach Collar/Humidivent: 2 = day; 3 = night; 4 = both CPAP/BiPAP: 5 = day; 6 = night; 7 = both Ventilator: 8 = day; 9 = night; 10 = both
What other technologies are required?	Enteral feedings 1 = gastrostomy tube 2 = jejunostomy tube 3 = nasogastric tube Parenteral feedings/medications 4 = PICC/CVL/Port-a-cath 5 = nebulizer 6 = vest and/or in-exsufflator
How many home nursing care hours per week?	Please note total hours per week (i.e., 8 hours, 5 days a week = 40).
How many trained caregivers?	1 = 1 2 = 2 3 = 2 or more
Telephone advice in the past 3 years?	Number of calls
Rehabilitation therapy?	1 = PT once a week 2 = PT greater than once a week 3 = OT once a week 4 = OT greater than once a week 5 = ST once a week 6 = ST greater than once a week Please note if receives any therapy less than once a week (i.e., every other week) as once a week.

(Continued on page 3)

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