



THE CORRONA PHYSICIAN

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **CORRONA ~ 2008**
- **Our presence at the ACR, 2007**
- **Manuscripts currently under review**
- **Collaborations with Dr. Jeffrey Curtis and Dr. Dan Solomon**
- **Infections Study**
- **NEW v.7 Forms**
- **Pharmacogenomics**
- **Medicare Audit**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Physician Charts	2
Medicare Audit	2
Manuscripts	3
v.7— New Forms!	3
Infections Study	3
Pharmacogenomics	3
Did you know?	4
Announcements	4

CORRONA ~ Moving Forward in 2008

CORRONA 2008

2008 should be a year of continued growth for **CORRONA**. There are several new initiatives we are working on, including:

1. **Satisfying Quality parameters defined by the ACR.**
2. **Educating docs on the documentation parameters supplied by CORRONA for Billing purposes.**
3. **Drawing blood samples for Biomarkers and Pharmacogenomics.**
4. **Publications on CV disease, Malignancy, Infection, Response to biologics in the U.S.**
5. **Interfacing with EMRs.**
6. **Collaborations with AHRQ and the FDA.**

Stay tuned for further information on the above initiatives.

CORRONA ~ ACR 2007 Summary

To view the abstracts accepted in 2007, please go to our website:

www.corronea.org

- ◆ Hepatotoxicity Associated with Non-Biologic DMARDs: Implications for Evaluation of New Rheumatic Disease Therapies
- ◆ TNF Inhibitors (TNF-I) and Risk of Malignancy in 8,072 RA Patients Followed Over 15,495 Patient Years
- ◆ Determinants of Return to Employment in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) in the United States from the CORRONA Registry
- ◆ Persistence of Clinical Benefit in Rheumatoid Arthritis After Discontinuation of TNF-Inhibitor Therapy: Analysis from the CORRONA Database
- ◆ Subcutaneous Nodules (SCN) May Predict Increased Risk for Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) in Patients from the CORRONA Database with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)
- ◆ Increasing RA Severity and Disease Comorbidities Are Associated with Decreasing Hemoglobin in the CORRONA Database
- ◆ The Rate of Infection Adverse Events (AEs) is Increased as Disease Activity Increases in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)
- ◆ Defining Change in Disease Activity Parameters Associated with Loss of Response Over Time in RA Patients

Relationships

1. Establishment of a formal relationship with Epidemiology consultants Dr. Dan Solomon, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Dr. Jeffrey Curtis, University of Alabama.
2. Formal relationship established with NYU Medical Center to perform Genomic and Biomarker studies.

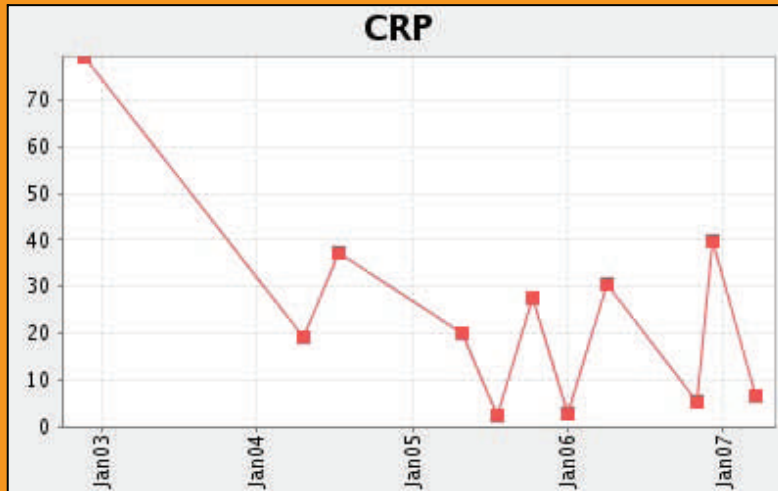
Patient Charts for the Physician

Have you started to use the CORRONA software automatic calculation of serial calculated scores for your patients?? These are examples of how these scores look! They can be accessed on the web at the time of a patient encounter in the exam room.

This is **21st Century Medicine** provided to you by CORRONA which will be a great aid in **DOCUMENTATION FOR BILLING AND QUALITY DOCUMENTATION.**

View physician and patient charts in your database!

Serial CRP Color Graphic Available to BOTH MD AND PATIENT



Access your own site's data, select the patient identification number, and then look under the "Profile Reports".

There are two options for your review.

"For: patient" will open the charts available to the patient in the database when they access their own data.

"For: physician" opens all charts that will enhance your patient's visit and will assist billing and quality documentation.

MD report of DAS and CDAI scores Real Example Available NOW!

Visit Date	Physician Review									
	Tender Jt. Counts	Swollen Jt. Counts	Disease Activity 0 = Not Active 100 = Very Active	CRP	ESR	Creatinine Results	AST Results	HCT%	DAS-28*	CDAI*
11/21/2002	1	7	62	79.1	72	0.60	12	36%	5.16	158
02/11/2003	1	3	30		65	0.70	9	37%	4.39	94
07/23/2003	0	8	32			0.60	19	34%	NA	130
01/12/2004	0	4	20		36	0.70	25	37%	3.35	94
04/19/2004	0	5	17	19.1	5	0.70	25	37%	1.99	90
07/12/2004	0	8	20	37.2	35	0.70	23	34%	3.56	120
10/26/2004	0	7	21		40	0.70	24	37%	3.62	110
02/03/2005	0	4	15		23	0.60	20	36%	2.96	91
04/26/2005	0	3	40	19.8		0.70	43	35%	NA	112
07/18/2005	0	4	14	2.4	35	0.80		37%	3.24	68
10/10/2005	0	2	12	27.4	40	0.60	26	36%	3.15	61
01/03/2006	0	2	7	2.7	59	0.80	25	34%	3.35	98
04/03/2006	0	4	18	30.4	60	0.70	27	36%	3.68	100
10/30/2006	0	2	15	5.4	71	0.60	26	36%	3.59	91
12/05/2006	0	3	12	39.9	76	0.80	35	36%	3.68	83
03/19/2007	0	2	22	6.7	78	0.50	26	33%	3.75	105

Story of the Quarter ~ Medicare Audit

Dr. Scott Toder, Johnston, Rhode Island, a CORRONA participant since 2003, was concerned when he was served notice that his Remicade billing was being **audited by Medicare!**

Over 100 charts of patients were reviewed. The **Medicare auditors** asked for a calculated numerical clinical score, physician and patient global scores, and a health assessment questionnaire.

Dr. Toder was able to supply the Medicare auditors with the records from the CORRONA process.

RESULT: All of the patients were accepted and full payment was awarded for each and every patient!

MEDICARE AUDIT Saved by CORRONA

v.7 Coming Soon!

Version 7 of all forms is currently being prepared by OUT-COME, our IT partner in Cambridge, MA. You will see that this version asks the physician to record start and stop dates of biologic agents in patients being enrolled and switching drugs. New forms will be reimbursed at **\$140**, while follow-up forms will be reimbursed at **\$45**.

Lots of thought and input from our Epidemiology colleagues has gone into the new forms.

You can expect to see Version 7 in the second quarter of 2008.

Manuscripts Under Review

1) The Role of Drug and Disease Registries in Rheumatic Disease Epidemiology

Kremer JM, Gibofsky A, Greenberg JD. *Current Opinion in Rheumatology*, In Press.

2) TNF Antagonist Responsiveness in a United States Rheumatoid Arthritis Cohort

Greenberg JD, Kishimoto M, Strand V, Cohen SB, Oleginski TP, Harrington T, Kafka SP, Reed G, and Kremer JM on behalf of the CORRONA Investigators *American Journal of Medicine*, In Press

3) Predictors of Bone Density Testing in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Aizer J, Reed G, Onofrei A, Harrison MJ. *Submitted*.

4) Association of Methotrexate, TNF Antagonists and Combination Therapy with Risk of Infection in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Greenberg JD, Reed G, Kremer JM, Tindall E, Kavanaugh A, Zheng C, Bishai W and Hochberg MC on behalf of the CORRONA Investigators. *Submitted*

5) Functional Improvement After RA Patients Start a New Disease Modifying Anti-rheumatic Drug Associated with Frequent Changes in DMARDs

Ranganath VK, Paulus H, Onofrei A, Khannal D, Reed G, Elashoff DA, Kremer JM, Furst DE. *Submitted*

6) Prevalence of Low Hemoglobin Levels in Association with Other Disease Parameters in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Furst DE, Chang H, Greenberg J, Ranganath VK, Reed G, Ozturk ZE, Kremer J, on behalf of the CORRONA investigators. *Submitted*

7) Are Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitors Being Used More Frequently Among Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients In the United States?

Lee SJ, Chang C, Yazici Y, Greenberg JD, Kremer JM, Kavanaugh A. *Submitted*

Infections Confirmations

By now, your site will have received the one-page Infection Confirmation forms. The reason for this form is that it is important for the functioning of a GOOD registry to CONFIRM AND VALIDATE important events, like infection.

Most of the information on the forms has been appropriately derived from patients when originally reported.

These forms ask for a validation of the event from the chart (SO THAT WE KNOW THAT IT IS ACCURATE) for which **you will be paid \$50 for each one page form completed (ESTIMATED TIME: A FEW MINUTES PER PAGE)**.

IF A HOSPITALIZATION OCCURRED, WE ASK THAT YOU ACCESS THE HOSPITAL RECORDS IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE FORMS.

CORRONA WILL PAY YOU \$100 FOR THIS SECOND STEP, IF IT IS NEEDED.

Pharmacogenomics

CORRONA Pharmacogenomics

We are excited to announce the launch of the **CORRONA Pharmacogenomics Sub study**.

This study will be conducted in collaboration with New York University School of Medicine where the DNA samples will be stored to create a Biorepository. This will provide CORRONA with a unique opportunity to study genetic biomarkers that predict clinical response and toxicities to DMARDs and biologic agents.

This sub study has been approved by the New England IRB. Approval for CORRONA sites governed by other IRBs (ie academic sites) will need to seek independent approval.

How Can Sites Participate?

The first pharmacogenomic studies will focus on genetic biomarkers that predict response to TNF antagonists. By collecting standard outcome measures, laboratory values and toxicities, CORRONA investigators have provided the critical clinical components to be used in correlations with biomarkers and genomic studies to be performed.

In the next month, we will ask the CORRONA biostatisticians to identify all RA patients with a baseline and follow-up visit after starting a TNF antagonist from your site. **We will send your site a list of these patients from whom we wish to collect a blood specimen for DNA extraction when they return to your office in the coming months.**

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ **Patient access** to their data can assist the patient in becoming a “partner” in their own health care.
- ◆ Please offer this opportunity to every patient enrolled in CORRONA. Forms have been provided to every site and they may gain access to their data by calling the CORRONA Patient Access 800# to receive their own user name and password.
- ◆ **Physician access** to their own database can assist you in following the progression of disease management. If you haven't yet explored this option, you are missing important information.
- ◆ **Current and Archived Bulletins** are posted in your database. Located above the tabs for Data Entry, Review Data, and Download, you will find the word News. Simply click on that link and you will be able to review current and past bulletins that you may have deleted from your e-mails. A good tool to stay in touch!

- ◆ **Spanish versions** are available for both Standard CORRONA and Sub-study (pharmacogenetics) protocol.
- ◆ To use the Spanish translated forms, your site must have a fluent Spanish-speaking staff member.
- ◆ The NEIRB must have this person or these persons listed as study site personnel.

For more information, please contact Kim Hinkle.
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518 853-1317

Announcements

CORRONA Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, May 23, 2008
7:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.
Sofitel Hotel O'Hare Airport
Chicago, IL.

To participate in the CORRONA Data
Collection Program Contact:
Kim Hinkle at khinkle@frontiernet.net
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CORRONA

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WWW.CORRONA.ORG

COMING IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

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**REDESIGNING PATIENT FLOW
USING CORRONA FOR
QUALITY DOCUMENTATION
WHILE SAVING FACE TO FACE TIME
IN THE EXAM ROOM.**

We would love to spotlight your own story in
the next newsletter.

Please, share your CORRONA experience with
all sites and participating physicians.