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Convention Posters
c/o Wisconsin Nurses Association
6117 Monona Drive
Madison, WI 53716

To Whom It May Concern:

We have attached the research abstract entitled Pediatric Chronic Pain Clinic Phone Triage: Monthly Variations in Volume and Parent Concerns, which we would like to be considered for display at the Wisconsin Nurses Association Annual Meeting and Conference.

We have no financial or other relationships that might lead to a conflict of interest. The work described has been approved by the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Institutional Review Board.

I will serve as the corresponding author for this abstract. Correspondence concerning this abstract should be sent to:

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Sincerely,

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COM/jm

Enc.

Title: Pediatric Chronic Pain Clinic Phone Triage: Monthly Variations in Volume and Parent Concerns

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Submission Type: Research Poster Abstract

Purpose/Framework: Seasonal variations have been examined in pediatric abdominal pain consultations, demonstrating winter predominance. A similar pattern has been suspected in other types of pediatric chronic pain, but never demonstrated. The goal of the current study is to examine monthly changes in phone calls made to an outpatient chronic pain clinic at a large Midwestern children's hospital.

Methods: All phone calls made to the clinic registered nurse regarding outpatient treatment were tracked between May 2008 and April 2009. The type of pain, reason for the call and call outcome were tracked. At the time of this poster presentation, data will represent a full year.

Findings: Preliminary data show 386 phone calls were made between May and December 2008. July had the least call volume with 33 (9%) calls. Call volume was largest in December with 63 (16%) calls. The largest consecutive monthly difference occurred between August with 38 (10%) calls and September with 55 (14%) calls. Significant monthly variations were found based upon type of pain reported ($p<.05$) with back pain being the most common in May (28%) and headaches being the most common in the subsequent months. The number of CRPS calls varied, with 0 calls in July, 13 (21%) calls in November and 11 (18%) calls in December. Among call reasons, "increased pain" represented the greatest monthly volume, with 117 (30%) calls overall. Other reasons varied by month ($p<.01$).

Conclusions/Implications: These results demonstrate that call volume, type of pain and call reason vary by month. Based on the nature of these findings, future research will focus on possible associations between clinic calls and the timing of the traditional American school year. This information could then aid medical providers in case management and in the development of early interventions.

Word Count: 290