Walgreens delivers referrals that are **21% Hispanic/Latino** for Alzheimer’s disease study

Walgreens is leveraging real-world data (RWD), access to more than **130 million patients** and community relationships to engage with patient populations often underrepresented in clinical trials.
Study
A phase 1 randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multiple ascending dose study to evaluate a next-generation monoclonal antibody being developed for the potential treatment of Alzheimer’s disease (AD).

Approach
Walgreens leveraged their unparalleled real-world data insights to identify eligible patient populations within 20 miles of study sites. In addition to patient identification, their workflow includes creating culturally sensitive digital outreach materials that consider relevant demographic characteristics, as well as medical record retrieval and review, ensuring a smooth, targeted and consistent patient journey.

Differentiators

• Unparalleled insights:
  Walgreens leverages a robust knowledge of their patients to not only identify and engage participants more efficiently, but to also motivate participants to pursue clinical research as a care option, thus generating insights that will continue to improve and power future healthcare initiatives.

• Community-centered approach:
  78% of the U.S. population lives within 5 miles of a Walgreens, 51% of which are in socially vulnerable areas. Walgreens provides care and access to individuals often underserved by traditional health models and can enroll populations that are often underrepresented in clinical trials.

• Synergistic relationships across the healthcare ecosystem:
  Walgreens brand recognition, nationwide locations and community relationships built on trust, combined with an ecosystem of best-in-class collaborators, enable a seamless patient experience throughout each step of a clinical trial.

Identify the right patients
Analyze Walgreens patients with the Patient Cohort Browser — a protected, web-based application — to identify relevant participants, as well as their preferred communication channels based on contact opt-ins.

Enlighten our patients
Develop digital outreach materials that consider relevant demographic and social determinants of health (SDoH) characteristics.

Engage and empower our patients
Engage with potential patients via preferred contact methods (e.g., text, email, in store, etc.) and empower them to participate in prescreening process.

Progress eligible patients forward
Increase certainty around clinical eligibility through medical record retrieval and work with sites to support final screening and enrollment of qualified patients.

Individual patient data via the cohort browser tool is encrypted and cannot be viewed during criteria searches. Eventual patient outreach is based on previously established consent to receive emails and/or texts.
Results

Average traditional trial participants according to the FDA 2020 Drug Trial Snapshots compared with this Walgreens study. Walgreens recruitment efforts in this study are nearly double when compared to the national average of study participation.

11% National Hispanic/Latino referral rate

VS.

21.36% Walgreens Hispanic/Latino referral rate

Additionally, study referral rate in females (across race and ethnicity) increased in this study — from 56% to 61.17%.

Conclusion

Leveraging their rich RWD with census data to understand the makeup of a community, Walgreens was able to deliver patient referrals that improve on the national averages of both African American and Hispanic/Latino populations — both of which are at higher risk of Alzheimer's disease — as well as in women participants as a whole.

“Walgreens has a clear role in the evolution of clinical trials towards a more patient-centric, equitable research enterprise. We continue our mission to improve patient awareness, accessibility and representation because each effort is not just a clinical trial … it’s hope.”

Ramita Tandon
Chief Clinical Trials Officer | Walgreens Health

Walgreens is making clinical trials more accessible, convenient and equitable in the communities they serve. They have created the ideal blend of technology, personal connection and flexible, virtual, hybrid or in-person care capabilities required to deliver on industry partners’ clinical trial needs.

Let’s transform clinical research, together. Scan the QR code to learn more or contact us.

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