RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE -
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services defines superutilizers as “beneficiaries with complex, unaddressed health issues and a history of frequent encounters with health care providers.” Identifying and addressing superutilization involves a multi-level, coordinated strategy that includes quantitative (e.g., screening claims data for superutilization patterns) as well as qualitative (e.g., engagement with community-level providers) approaches. Community First Health Plans (CFHP), serving Bexar and seven surrounding counties in Texas, is a managed care organization working to address the needs of superutilizers in its area.

HYPOTHESIS -
Working closely with CFHP will 1) improve the provider’s analytic capability thus increasing the capacity to address superutilization, 2) create a positive feedback loop to state Medicaid programs, and 3) provide in-depth knowledge of superutilization to improve predictive validity of models using claims data.

METHODS AND MATERIALS AND DATA ANALYSIS –
Working closely with staff at the UF and a Texas-based provider from CFHP, we will use mixed methods to analyze existing sources of data (e.g., ER visit patterns, superutilizer surveys) provided by CFHP and currently available.

ROLE OF MEDICAL STUDENT -
The medical student will work closely with all stakeholders to help analyze data, interpret findings, and present results.

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS –