

## ePRO and the Elderly

### How Geriatric Populations Feel About Electronic Patient Diaries



When it comes to ePRO and the elderly, a reasonable first assumption might be that geriatric patients, who are generally not technically savvy, may find handheld eDiaries difficult to use. A logical conclusion, therefore, could be that some of these patients will not be able to participate in the study, and that those who do will exhibit poor compliance and/or require constant support from their site. While these assumptions may seem intuitive, data from multiple ePRO studies consistently demonstrate that elderly patients enjoy using PHT's **LogPad System**®, and are generally even more compliant than younger subjects in a trial.

#### Elderly Compliance

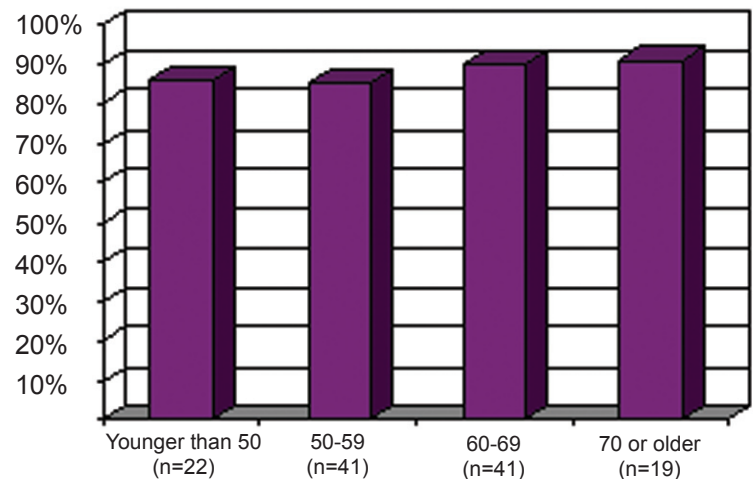
The results shown here are taken from a low back pain study sponsored by a PHT client. Patients ranged in age from 32 to 93, with a median of 59 years old. As the data shows, patients 70 and older had the highest average compliance of the entire population, at 91%, and those in their 60's were next, at 90%. While these data are from a single study, numerous other studies and experience have shown similar results, suggesting that age is not correlated with LogPad compliance.

In fact, data from multiple studies suggest elderly subjects are actually slightly **more** likely to comply with the eDiary than are their younger counterparts. Potential explanations for this phenomenon are geriatric subjects have more time to dedicate to following study directions exactly than younger participants, and are motivated to develop strong relationships with their study coordinators and investigators.

#### The Subject Experience

Anecdotal data obtained from direct feedback and interviews conducted with sites and subjects using the LogPad System in clinical research around the world shows patients (especially the elderly) enjoy using the LogPad because it makes them feel more connected to the site. Subjects naturally compared the LogPad to paper, which might go unread for weeks or months, as opposed to the LogPad, which makes patients feel like someone is listening every day.

**Average Compliance by Age Group**  
*Low back pain study, subjects aged 32-93*



## User-Friendly eDiary Design

PHT's LogPad features graphical touchscreen data entry, reminder alarms, formatted response options and programmed branching logic in order to make completing a diary report as simple as possible. If necessary, PHT can further customize and design the LogPad application to accommodate elderly subjects with larger fonts and screen targets, pen-sized styluses, and screen magnifiers. Although it has been our experience that these additional measures are rarely needed, due to the inherent usability of the LogPad and new PDA devices with brighter screens and higher resolutions, we are absolutely committed to designing each and every LogPad to optimize convenience and ease of use for subjects of all ages. PHT's LogPad ensures you make the most of every patient.

## Taking Extra Care

Study sponsors using PHT's LogPad System to collect ePRO data from their subjects may also choose to implement our innovative and unique **Caregiver Module**, which allows an authorized user to respond on the subject's behalf. While most often used for parents to answer questions regarding their child, caretakers may also benefit from the ability to complete diary reports on behalf of elderly patients who may not be able to use the eDiary (or a paper diary, for that matter).

## PHT's Geriatric Trial Experience

PHT has deployed LogPads in pilots and studies of subjects that include significant numbers of geriatric subjects and in subject populations with moderate physical impairments. Some of the therapeutic areas and indications for which the LogPad has been used with geriatric populations:

❖ Anti-arrhythmia	❖ Insomnia
❖ Asthma	❖ Multiple Sclerosis
❖ Cancer	❖ Osteoarthritis
❖ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	❖ Osteoporosis
❖ Chronic Pain	❖ Parkinson's Disease
❖ Deep Vein Thrombosis	❖ Postmenopausal Vasometer Symptoms
❖ Diabetic Neuropathy	❖ Rheumatoid Arthritis

## Summary

Research and anecdotal evidence from multiple ePRO trials demonstrate that elderly patients are certainly capable and willing to use electronic patient diaries to record their symptoms and quality of life data in clinical trials worldwide. Age and subject condition are not significantly correlated with compliance, although some data shows elderly patients may actually be **more** compliant than younger subjects.

As with all subject populations, proper training and monitoring from the site coordinator greatly improves compliance, while a well-designed and simple eDiary application (with additional user-friendly measures where necessary) make completing and transmitting reports convenient and easy. PHT is fully committed to helping study sponsors get the most out of every patient by using its market-leading LogPad System to collect and manage high-quality and reliable ePRO data from clinical trial subjects of all ages.

LogPad is a registered trademark of PHT Corporation. FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE is a trademark of PHT Corporation. LogPad manufactured under U.S. Patents 5,778,882 and 6,095,985.

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PHT Corporation, 500 Rutherford Avenue, Charlestown, MA 02129, USA  
p. 617.973.1600 f. 617.973.1601 www.phtcorp.com info@phtcorp.com

PHT Corporation Sarl, 2 chemin Louis-Hubert, 1213 Petit-Lancy, Geneva, Switzerland  
p. +41.22.879.91.00 f. +41.22.879.91.01 www.phtcorp.com saleseu@phtcorp.com

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