**Project Title:** A prospective clinical audit measuring the impact of Shared Decision Making aids on cost variation for the diagnosis and treatment of degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis within a Pioneer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model.

**Applicant Name:** Thomas D. Cha MD, MBA (Primary Investigator)

**Research Status:** We have made strides in the past year working to complete this project. Claims information of Medicare beneficiaries whose primary care physician is within the Partners Healthcare network (approximately 45,000 patients) continue to be collected by the analyst on the Performance Analysis and Improvement team. Claims regarding to the diagnosis and treatment of degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis continue to be deciphered. There was an unanticipated delay in gaining access to this data following the creation of a Pioneer Accountable Care Organization by the Partners network in January, 2012 and the lag in compiling of this data in one place to allow our analyst to search for these claims did not occur until near the end of 2013. We very much want to collect at least a year, and preferably two years of data. Very preliminary results show wide variation of these costs between patients that is perhaps attributable to variation of provider specialty and also perhaps our primary aim to study the effect of a Shared Decision Making aid given to patients with lumbar spinal stenosis.

The completion of this research will be used to support application for further funding. Our team is discussing application for a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute Grant, especially if the results for the benefit of Shared Decision Making Aids are shown in this project.

Again, we are very grateful for the support through the North American Spine Society and anticipate completion of this project by April, 2015.