## Fibromyalgia TENS in Physical Therapy Study: An Embedded Pragmatic Trial







## Barriers and Challenges

- Research Naïve Clinicians
- Technology Ability for Clinicians and Patients
- Recruitment
  - COVID impact on enrollment (PT availability, reduced staff, clinic closing, change in referral patterns, patient availability)
  - FM diagnosis not common reason for referral to PT
  - Changing workflow for PTs Difficult
- Retention
  - Enrollment to completion of Visit 2 (mITT) lower than expected
  - Completion of day 180 at 70%
- Electronic Health Record
  - 6 different systems
  - Clinics have PTs responsible for EHR
  - Clinics switching EHR



## Solutions

- Recruitment and Retention
  - Initiated regular contact (phone, e-mail, text) with enrolled subjects after eligibility and enrollment
  - Additional clinics with more intensive training of clinicians
  - Retrained existing clinics in person in the fall
  - Screen all neck and back pain subjects
  - Enrollment incentives, weekly reports, newsletters, on site visits quarterly
- Electronic Health Record
  - Scheduling regular meetings to finalize data pulls, set deadlines
  - Concentrating on data more easily pulled from EHR (no patient-level outcomes)
- Lessons Learned
  - Know where to concentrate efforts
  - Setting expectations for clinics and healthcare system
  - Regular interaction with clinics and patients critical to maintain engagement
  - Being available to answer clinician and patient questions