



# Press Release

## Only Half of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) Patients Undergo Complete Testing to Determine the Presence of NASH

### Research to be presented at the ISPOR 22th Annual International Meeting in Boston

**New York, NY, May 8, 2017** — In an assessment by Ipsos Healthcare’s Global Evidence, Value and Access team, led by Dr. Marco DiBonaventura, patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in the United States and Europe are only examined for NASH in 50% of cases, according to new findings from Ipsos Healthcare’s NASH Therapy Monitor, a retrospective medical chart review dataset of patients with NAFLD. The research will be presented later this month at the ISPOR (International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research) 22th Annual International Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

“NAFLD is characterized by fat build-up in the liver, which occurs in approximately 30-40% of adults” said Jason Katz, the lead researcher on the study at Ipsos Healthcare. “However, when this progresses to liver cell inflammation and death it is classified as NASH. NASH is largely asymptomatic but increases the risk of liver cirrhosis and liver cancer.”

Using the clinical data from the NASH Monitor, Ipsos identified the percentage of patients who had a complete NAFLD Activity Score (NAS). The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases recommends that a NAS of 3 or above indicates the presence of NASH. Additional analyses were conducted to determine what patient characteristics were most strongly associated with having a complete NAS measurement.

The results from the study showed that only 52% of patients had a NAS value, suggesting a potential underdiagnosis of NASH. The presence of NASH cannot be definitively determined without this NAS assessment. Patients with an elevated fibrosis score and cardiometabolic comorbidities were more likely to have had a complete measurement. Sociodemographic factors were generally unrelated suggesting that healthcare access is not an issue.

“Prevalence estimates of NASH range from 3-12%,” Mr. Katz said. “However, the results of our study suggest there may be more patients out there who are not getting diagnosed due to an incomplete assessment. Improved early detection of NASH can dramatically affect patient outcomes and societal costs, particularly since there are upcoming treatments available.”

**For more information on this news release and our work in Health Outcomes and Real World Research, please contact:**

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### About the NASH Therapy Monitor

The study's results were drawn from the NASH Therapy Monitor, a retrospective medical chart review of patients with NAFLD in the United States conducted annually. Physicians abstract patient demographics, disease status, comorbidities, testing, and treatment data on their most recent 5-10 NAFLD patients.

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