

Amenities at Healthy Volunteer Clinical Research Facilities

By Norman M. Goldfarb

Some in-patient clinical research facilities conduct Phase I and other pharmacokinetics and toxicity studies of experimental drugs in healthy volunteers. Because study subjects risk their health — and potentially life — without expectation of health benefit, stipends are generally much larger than in Phase II-IV studies. In addition, these facilities offer various amenities to keep the subjects entertained and in touch with the outside world.

The website “Just Another Lab Rat!” (www.jalr.org) caters to the professional study subject community. It provides information about 41 U.S. facilities, including amenity profiles for 38 of them. The website’s selection of facilities might not accurately represent the entire population of facilities and the author has not verified the amenity profiles; however, the data provides a view into the world of healthy volunteer clinical research facilities. The data below has not been analyzed for location, ownership, specialty, size or type of facility, e.g., hospital or stand-alone operation.

The 38 facilities offer a wide variation in the number and assortment of amenities. The number of amenities in each facility ranges from 3 to 17 (out of 20, with some overlap), with a mean of 9.3 and a median of 10.0. Figure 1 shows the number of amenities by facility. Table 1 shows the frequency of amenity occurrence. Table 2 shows the distribution of amenities across facilities.

Figure 1. Number of Amenities by Facility

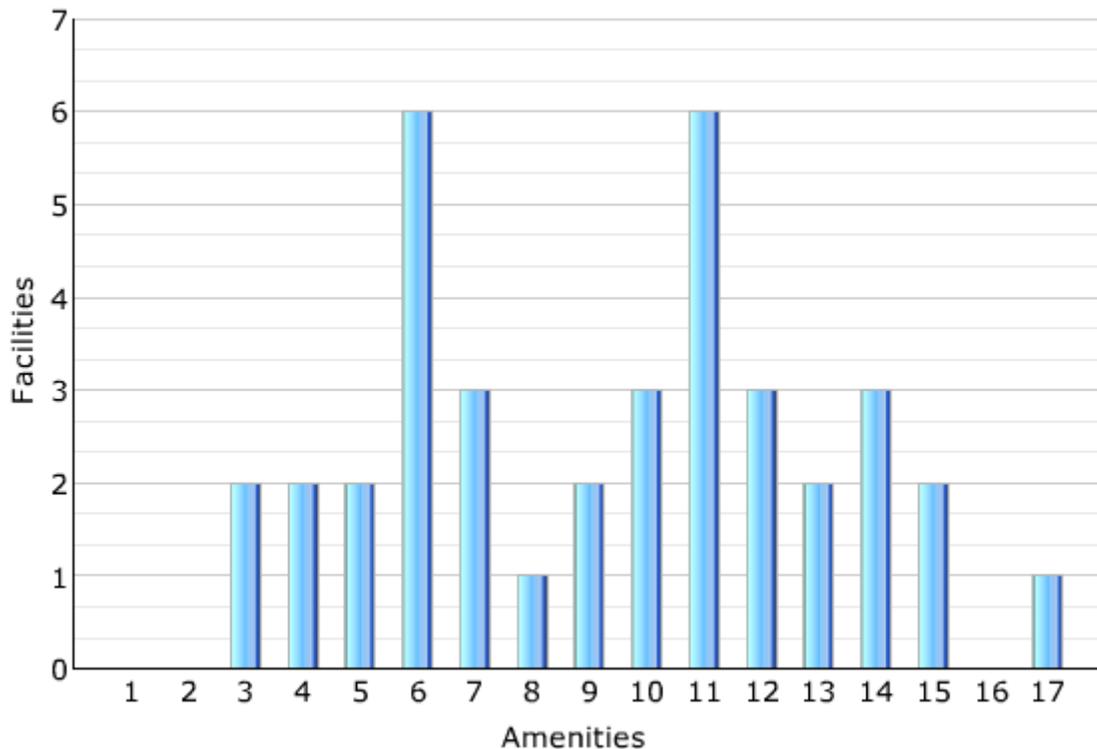


Table 1. Frequency of Amenity Occurrence

| | Amenity | Occurrence |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Television | Big Screen TV | 35 |
| | In-Room TV | 14 |
| | Private Bedside TV | 3 |
| | Cable | 23 |
| | Satellite | 11 |
| | DVD Player | 31 |
| | Movie Library | 23 |
| Internet Access | WIFI | 26 |
| | LAN | 6 |
| | Public Computers with Internet | 23 |
| Games & Activities | Video Games | 19 |
| | Board Games | 28 |
| | Pool Table | 22 |
| | Ping Pong | 4 |
| | Foos Ball | 8 |
| | Darts | 1 |
| | Activities like Crafts or Bingo | 8 |
| Rooms | Quiet Room | 14 |
| | Computer Room | 18 |
| | Rec Room | 15 |
| | TV Room | 22 |

Table 2. Amenities by Facility

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Television | Big Screen TV | XXX XX |
| | In-Room TV | XX XXXX X X X XXX X |
| | Private Bedside TV | XX X |
| | Cable | XXXXXXXXXX X XXX XXX XXXX X X |
| | Satellite | X X X XXX X X X X X |
| | DVD Player | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX XX |
| | Movie Library | XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXX X X |
| Internet Access | WIFI | XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX X XX XXXXX X |
| | LAN | X X XX X X |
| | Public Computers with Internet | XXXX XXXX XXXXX XX XX XX X XXX |
| Games & Activities | Video Games | XX XXXXXXXX XX X XX X X XXX |
| | Board Games | XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXX XXXXXXXX |
| | Pool Table | XXXX X X XX X XX X X X XXXX XX X X |
| | Ping Pong | X XX X |
| | Foos Ball | XX XXX X X X |
| | Darts | X |
| | Activities like Crafts or Bingo | X X X X X X X X |
| Rooms | Quiet Room | XXXXX X X XXX XXX X |
| | Computer Room | XXXXXX XXXX X XXXXXXXX |
| | Rec Room | XXXXXX XX XX X X XX X |
| | TV Room | X XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXX XX X X |

Author

Norman M. Goldfarb is Managing Director of First Clinical Research LLC, a provider of clinical research best practices information services. Contact him at 1.650.465.0119 or ngoldfarb@firstclinical.com.