



PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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QualityMetric Awarded \$2 Million NIH Grant for Health Outcomes Measurement Development in Asthma

Lincoln, RI – October 9, 2007: QualityMetric Health Outcomes Solutions has been awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) for \$2 million to advance developments in patient-reported outcome (PRO) measures for adults with asthma. QualityMetric will collaborate with Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research and the Southern California Permanente Medical Group on this project.

The award will enable QualityMetric to finalize development of the ASTHMA-CAT, an assessment that combines generic and disease-specific health outcomes measures to provide a comprehensive and precise, yet practical, patient-based assessment valid for routine monitoring of asthma impact, asthma control, and generic health-related quality of life (HRQOL) outcomes across a variety of settings. The ASTHMA-CAT will offer streamlined data capture, processing, and "real time" reporting features; and yield valid and comparable scores across multiple modes of administration to inform clinical decision-making and improve asthma care management.

Several of QualityMetric's product development initiatives are supported through the NIH's SBIR program, a federal set-aside program designed for domestic small business concerns engaging in research and development efforts that have strong potential for commercialization and public benefit. SBIR grant proposals undergo rigorous peer review by independent scientists and the funding agency. Grant awards are made on the basis of technological innovation, scientific merit, commercialization, and corporate potential.

Dr. Diane Turner-Bowker, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator, states, "We are integrating the latest research in modern psychometrics with QualityMetric's DYNHA[®] technology to create a scientifically valid asthma survey that is cost-effective and easy to administer. Survey results will provide physicians with a more comprehensive understanding of each patient's health status."

Scientists at QualityMetric have extensive experience in the application of modern psychometric methods [item response theory (IRT)] and computerized adaptive testing (CAT) technology to the assessment of patient-reported outcomes. Members of QualityMetric's research team have developed the DYNHA[®] system, which allows administration of computerized tests of both generic and disease-specific health concepts. Using DYNHA, QualityMetric is able to explore the practical applications of IRT and CAT in clinical research and practice.

About QualityMetric Incorporated:

QualityMetric provides the most widely-used health outcomes measurement products and services using proprietary and analytical methodologies to capture, benchmark, and interpret actionable, patient-reported health information. Founded in 1997 by John E. Ware, Jr., PhD,

principal developer of the SF-36[®], SF-12[®], and SF-8[™] Health Surveys, QualityMetric collaborates on the development of science-based health assessment systems for application by companies developing new treatments, care management organizations, practitioners, employers, and government agencies who need practical, yet precise patient-reported data for risk screening and outcomes monitoring. For more information, visit www.qualitymetric.com.