



PRESS RELEASE

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Franciscan Hospital for Children & QualityMetric Celebrate “*Setting the Pace*” for Children’s Health Care with a NASCAR Exhibit

Boston, MA & Lincoln, RI - September 5, 2006 - Franciscan Hospital for Children (FHC), New England's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital and QualityMetric Incorporated, a leading provider of health outcomes measurement products and services, are celebrating “*setting the pace*” in children’s health care with a NASCAR exhibit. A QualityMetric-sponsored race car will be on display at the Franciscan Hospital for Children on Thursday, September 7, 2006 (rain or shine) from 11:00am to 1:00pm and NASCAR driver, Donnie Neuenberger will be autographing and distributing NASCAR photo cards to the children at the hospital. The public is invited.

As a recipient of a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant (from the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, NIH), QualityMetric is working with the Franciscan Hospital for Children, its clinical collaborator and research partner, in Phases I and II of an SBIR Grant to develop a Computer Adaptive Test (survey) for measuring the health status of children with/without disabilities. Computer adaptive surveys require much less in respondent burden and also enhance the validity and precision of health status assessments.

Children’s health outcomes measurement isn’t new to QualityMetric, as evidenced by the launch of their **Suite of Child Health Outcomes Surveys**. The children’s surveys help the medical and health care industries evaluate how well their products and/or services are meeting the needs of children over time. John E. Ware, Jr., PhD., founder, CEO and Chairman of the Board at QualityMetric stated, “QualityMetric has developed a Suite of Child Health Outcomes Surveys that will do for children what the SF-36® Health Survey does for adults. Every survey can be counted on to support the development and evaluation of new treatments, improved care delivery and research developed specifically for children.”

Franciscan Hospital for Children, a not-for-profit healthcare system, is operated by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. The continuum of care includes inpatient, residential, educational, surgical, outpatient and home care programs; a combination of resources for children that is hard to find anywhere else. Franciscan Hospital for Children promotes the integrity and well being of children and their caregivers through the highest quality of care. Each child is given the opportunity to achieve the maximum potential in an atmosphere of respect, compassion and dignity. Through their family-centered programs, their physicians, nurses, clinicians and educators help children reach their full potential.

About QualityMetric:

Founded in 1997 by John E. Ware, Jr., PhD, principal developer of the SF-36[®], SF-12[®] and SF-8[™] Health Surveys, QualityMetric, using proprietary and analytical methodologies to capture, benchmark and interpret actionable, patient-reported health information, provides the most widely used health outcomes measurement products and services for use in pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device companies, in CRO's and in Health Management in areas such as pharmacoeconomic analysis, clinical trials, direct-to-consumer (DTC) marketing, disease and population management, risk assessment, cost prediction, and consumer-directed health care initiatives. QualityMetric also offers Outcomes-Insight Consulting Services and collaborates on the development of science-based health assessment systems. For more information about QualityMetric visit: qualitymetric.com

About Franciscan Hospital For Children:

Franciscan Hospital for Children is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The Hospital collaborates with all major medical centers throughout New England and other tertiary facilities throughout the country. FHC is a teaching affiliate of Boston University School of Medicine and its Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Tufts Medical School, and many other colleges and universities across the country. The Hospital's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Unit and the Kennedy Hope Academy are required rotations for the MGH-Harvard Medical School-McLean Hospital residency program.