



Kaiser Permanente and QualityMetric Announce Burden of Disease Assessment Project at AAHP Annual Meeting

Lincoln, RI. - July 8, 2003 – The Kaiser Permanente Care Management Institute (CMI) and QualityMetric Incorporated announced an innovative Burden of Disease Assessment Project with industry-wide implications to an audience of national health care executives at the 2003 Institute & Display Forum sponsored recently by the American Association of Health Plans.

CMI, charged with improving the quality and efficacy of care delivered to Kaiser's 8.4 million members, and QualityMetric Incorporated, a leader in the development of consumer-reported health outcomes that measure quality of life, discussed the specific intents and industry implications of the Burden of Disease Assessment Project that will allow the health plan to:

- Track the functional health of their chronic condition populations
- Evaluate the efficacy and outcomes of their care plans and interventions
- Identify members likely to have depression
- Triage members into appropriate interventions and programs before they increase use of health care services

CMI will facilitate the collection of QualityMetric's consumer-reported health surveys using the Internet and interactive voice recognition technologies. "This project enhances Kaiser's efforts to engage members in their own health care as well as identify members who require treatment for one or more chronic conditions," commented Matt Stiefel, MPA, Associate Executive Director of the CMI. "The data collected through this project will allow us to better measure the cost-effectiveness and the value of treatment," Stiefel continued.

"QualityMetric is committed to developing consumer-reported health survey tools that have practical applications for health plans, disease management companies, and provider organizations," added John E. Ware Jr., PhD, chief executive officer and chief science officer of QualityMetric. "Our ability to provide brief, precise survey tools in easy-to-use formats fits perfectly with Kaiser's goals to determine effectiveness and ROI of treatment through the measurement and monitoring of their member populations."

Based on a survey that combines QualityMetric's widely used SF-8™ General Health Survey with selected disease-specific questions, the Burden of Disease Assessment can assist the health management strategy of disease management companies and health plans by:

- Identifying and predicting risk
- Evaluating the efficacy of disease management programs by reporting on quality of life improvements

- Engaging members in two-way communication with their plans to empower them in their own health care

If interested, health plans and disease management companies can obtain information on QualityMetric's consumer-reported health surveys and Burden of Disease Assessment by e-mailing DM@qualitymetric.com, visiting us online at www.qualitymetric.com, or calling 1-800-572-9394 for information.

About the Kaiser Permanente and the Care Management Institute

Kaiser Permanente is America's leading integrated health care organization. Founded in 1945, it is a non-profit, group-practice prepayment program with headquarters in Oakland, California. Kaiser Permanente serves the health care needs of 8.4 million members in nine states and the District of Columbia. Today, it encompasses Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.; Kaiser Foundation Hospitals; and the Permanente Medical Groups, as well as an affiliation with Group Health Cooperative based in Seattle.

Kaiser Permanente's Care Management Institute is a unique, pioneering institution with a mandate to drive, fund, and catalyze care management activities throughout the non-profit HMO. CMI was created in 1997 for the express purpose of helping Kaiser Permanente improve the quality of care and health outcomes for its members.

About QualityMetric Incorporated: An AAHP Solutions Partner

QualityMetric Incorporated, an independently and privately held corporation located in Lincoln, RI, was founded in 1997 by John E. Ware Jr., PhD, principal developer of the SF-36®, SF-12®, and SF-8™ Health Surveys. For more information, contact: QualityMetric Incorporated, 640 George Washington Highway, Lincoln, RI 02865, USA. Fax: 401-334-8801.

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