

For Immediate Release

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## **RESULTS OF PEERPOINT'S PROGRAM ON MANAGING JOINT PAIN PROVES QI CME WORKS TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND PATIENT OUTCOMES**

Evanston, IL – For perhaps the first time in the United States outside of academia and the federal government, a CME program has been combined with a quality improvement initiative and shown successful results, the PeerPoint Medical Education Institute recently announced. This initiative took the novel approach of utilizing prospective, de-identified patient data as both the means to measure real-time practice performance with regards to the management of joint pain and as a way of measuring higher patient- level outcomes.

Triaging Joint Pain Through a Quality Improvement Approach, sponsored by PeerPoint and supported by Wyeth and Amgen, was an innovative QI program for improving the delivery of care of the multiple etiologies associated with joint pain diagnosis and management. It was launched in 2008 and included premier faculty of some of the country's top medical institutions. More than 1000 patients were enrolled in the initiative by 80 healthcare providers. Three of these sites actually realized improvement scores of 41%, 36% and 35% and data shows many of the patients benefitted simply because their healthcare professionals participated in the program. Overall for the program seven of the 13 predetermined metrics were found to show a statistically significant improvement in performance that can be translated into improved patient outcomes. Three of the remaining six predetermined metrics showed positive trends towards obtaining noted improvement.

According to Rick Kennison, president and general manager of PeerPoint, approximately 1070 patients were treated by providers during the course of the initiative and many of them showed improvement in managing their joint pain patients. "Results like these prove that this form of educational hybrid can have a long lasting impact on provider practice habits and patient level outcomes," he said.

"One of the philosophical questions surrounding healthcare quality improvement is whether implementing such large scale programs are 'worth it,'" said Kennison. "If one life can be saved or improved, then, yes, it is worth it."

For more information QI CME, PeerPoint or to see results of the program, Triaging Joint Pain, contact Rick Kennison, 847-563-9520, [rick.kennison@peerpt.com](mailto:rick.kennison@peerpt.com) or visit [www.peerpt.com](http://www.peerpt.com).

### **About PeerPoint Medical Education Institute**

Headquartered in Evanston, IL, the PeerPoint Medical Education Institute, LLC, ([www.peerpt.com](http://www.peerpt.com)) is an ACCME-accredited provider of continuing medical education to physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, and other healthcare professionals. It is focused on improving the delivery of healthcare through performance and quality improvement initiatives that combine evidence-based data, practice management theories, adult learning principles and quality improvement processes in order to create programs that may change the behavior of healthcare providers, reduce variability in delivery and improve patient outcomes.