



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CareCore National Expands Expertise into Interventional Pain Management
Program Rolled Out Nationally After 1 Million Participate in Pilot**

BLUFFTON, S.C.—(BUSINESS WIRE)

CareCore National today announces the industry-wide launch of its comprehensive Pain Management Program. Commencing early in 2009, CareCore National has successfully piloted its Pain Management Program with a customer representing over one million insured lives. Developed by nationally recognized pain specialists, the first-in-the-marketplace Pain Management Program supports the proper use of interventional pain care in the context of an episode of care pain management plan.

Chronic or persistent pain is a medical condition that affects more the 100 million US patients annually, including 59 million reporting lower back pain, 30 million reporting neck pain, and one in five adults with doctor-diagnosed arthritis. The American Academy of Pain Medicine reports that \$100 billion dollars is spent annually on pain care and \$60 billion dollars in lost annual productivity. The CareCore National Pain Management Program is designed to improve the quality of pain care by facilitating patients' long-term return to productive activity and address rising interventional pain care cost in a clinically appropriate manner.

The CareCore National Pain Management Program's multifaceted and innovative approach includes transparent evidence-based guidelines, pain management provider credentialing and accreditation to improve quality, as well as coding and payment policies that identify and correct overpayment of pain interventions.

CareCore National has developed a set of evidence-based guidelines for interventional pain procedures that are based on the available medical literature and supplemented by expert opinion. The evidence-based pain guidelines, which are publically available on the CareCore National website at www.carecorenational.com undergo continuous review as the science of pain management medicine evolves.

About CareCore National, LLC

CareCore National is a leader in the application of evidence-based medical criteria designed to enhance the quality and cost appropriateness of healthcare. With over 45 million health insured members utilizing our services, CareCore National's innovative, quality-driven approach applies advanced health information exchange technologies across diagnostic imaging, cardiac care, oncology, radiation therapy, obstructive sleep apnea, pain management, and esoteric laboratory services. CareCore National programs provide comprehensive, seamless solutions to private and government health plan clients. CareCore National is certified by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and URAC.

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