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Cave Consulting Group (“CCGroup”) to Release Free Version of the Cave Grouper™

SAN MATEO, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--**CCGroup** is pleased to announce the release in February 2012 of a free download version of the **Cave Grouper™** software known as **CaveGrouper-Lite™**. The Cave Grouper™ is the oldest and most established grouper of episodes-of-care in the market today. The first article was published in 1992 based on work formed since 1989. Over the past 22 years, derivations of the Cave Grouper™ have been applied and validated using a wide variety of study populations totaling over 86 million individuals and 684,000 physicians. The study populations include Medicare, Medicaid, insurance companies, HMOs, third party administrators, physician groups, health systems, employers, and the Federal Government.

Similar to the Cave Grouper™, the CaveGrouper-Lite™ groups over 15,000 ICD-9 and 68,000 ICD-10 diagnosis codes into meaningful medical conditions. The medical conditions account for 100% of all medical conditions and expenditures.

CaveGrouper-Lite™ builds longitudinal episodes of care for acute conditions (e.g., upper respiratory infections, sinusitis) and for chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes, asthma). A longitudinal episode-of-care is defined as all services linked together that are used to treat a patient’s medical condition within a specified period of time – including physician services, facility, lab and diagnostic tests, and prescription drugs. CaveGrouper-Lite™ employs a static window period. Initially, output from CaveGrouper-Lite™ will present detailed episode-of-care information for 25 of the most prevalent medical conditions in the United States today.

CCGroup is proud to be the first company to release a free grouper of medical condition episodes to the public. “This is the second phase to allow all of CCGroup’s methods and algorithms to be 100% transparent for public use – including health plans, health systems, and the Federal and State governments,” stated **Douglas G. Cave**, Ph.D., President of CCGroup. The first phase occurred in June 2010 when CCGroup published all of the company’s step-by-step methods on the Cave Grouper™ and the **CCGroup EfficiencyCare™** analytics for provider efficiency measurement (United States Patent and Trademark Office Patent No. 7,739,126). Dr. Cave commented, ***“We have invested significant time and effort to determine and develop the most appropriate methods to build episodes-of-care and to obtain reliable, stable provider efficiency scores, especially the method on using a predefined set of medical conditions for a specialty type.”***

“With new **Accountable Care Organization (ACO)** and **Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)** legislation, a public-use grouper is almost mandatory for consistent episode-of-care analytics and performance measurement,” declared Dr. Cave. Both ACOs and PCMHs attempt to link organizational provider structures to episode-of-care payments and performance measurements for quality and cost-of-care accountability. Dr. Cave

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stated, ***“A key foundation for accountable performance measurement is the CaveGrouper-Lite™ because the methods and algorithms are 100% transparent, free to the public, and tested and validated on all study populations.”***

CCGroup will publish another press release on CaveGrouper-Lite™ in February 2012, shortly before the free download software is available to the public. The press release will specify “how-to” download CaveGrouper-Lite™.

About Cave Consulting Group

Cave Consulting Group, LLC is a software and consulting firm located in San Mateo, California. The company is focused on improving the efficiency (cost-of-care) and effectiveness (quality-of-care) in the healthcare delivery system. Senior management of Cave Consulting Group has assessed the performance of physicians and hospitals for over 22 years for health plans, HMOs, TPAs, employers, and the Federal Government.

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