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First Consulting Group and The Business Roundtable's Leapfrog Group to develop testing methodology for computer-based physician order entry (CPOE) systems

- **Leapfrog Group and First Consulting Group funded to develop patient safety testing criteria**
- **Project will advance Leapfrog Group's nationwide patient safety initiative**

Washington, D.C. and Long Beach, Calif. (April 19, 2001) – The Leapfrog Group and First Consulting Group (FCG) have received funding to develop testing criteria and the first-ever methodology for evaluating the effectiveness of individual hospitals' computer-based physician order entry (CPOE) system implementations. The project is funded through a California Health Care Foundation grant directly to the First Consulting Group, and through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to the Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy, The Leapfrog Group's host organization.

The goal of the project is to assist The Leapfrog Group in its nationwide effort to improve patient safety. This effort includes the promotion of specific hospital patient safety measures like CPOE, by educating and informing enrollees about its benefits, and recognizing and rewarding hospitals with effective CPOE systems. CPOE allows physicians to enter prescriptions and other orders directly into a computer and permits an automated decision support system to intercept erroneous orders as they are entered. CPOE also provides immediate feedback to physicians, allowing them to amend orders before they are finalized, and provides a variety of other options for improving quality and reducing clinical costs. Research to date indicates that general use of CPOE would significantly reduce the danger of adverse medical events and their attendant costs.

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices will provide support to First Consulting Group in the development of specific criteria for testing.

Commenting on the award, Suzanne Delbanco, Leapfrog Group executive director, said, "It is clear to The Leapfrog Group that the use of effective CPOE systems will have a direct and significant positive effect on the safety of patient care. We are pleased to award this contract to First Consulting Group, which has taken a leading role in promoting the application of IT to patient safety."

Arnie Milstein, M.D., who heads standards development for The Leapfrog Group, commented: "This grant is a step in strengthening the validity of our CPOE standard; it enables our standard to advance from presence and use of CPOE, to documentation for an individual hospital, but also allows the hospital to demonstrate its level of effectiveness in intercepting a standardized set of prescribing errors that carry a high risk of adverse drug events."

David Classen, M.D., FCG vice president, added, "We believe that, by focusing the purchasing power and prestige of its members on patient care quality, the Leapfrog Group will have a real impact. We're particularly gratified that the Leapfrog Group has chosen FCG for this important step and we look forward to working

together to achieve the Group's goals." Dr. Classen was formerly the chair of Intermountain Health Care's Clinical Quality Committee for Drug Use and Evaluation and was instrumental in IHC's pioneering work in using information technology to improve clinical care quality.

Peter Kilbridge M.D., practice director at FCG and the project manager for this initiative observed, "It's important that CPOE be properly implemented if it is to improve patient safety. Developing solid standards for assessing CPOE systems will help organizations with planning their CPOE projects, and will ultimately lead to reductions in adverse drug events in hospitals." Dr. Kilbridge, a pediatrician as well as a consulting executive, is currently assisting several other FCG healthcare clients in patient safety improvement efforts.

Michael Cohen, President of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, noted, "The Institute of Medicine found that medication errors are the most common type of medical errors. Experience has shown that CPOE can reduce serious medication errors by at least 55%, saving lives and many millions of dollars."

ABOUT THE LEAPFROG GROUP

The Leapfrog Group's goal is to mobilize employer purchasing power to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety and overall value of healthcare to American consumers. It is a voluntary program aimed at mobilizing large purchasers to alert the health care industry that big leaps in patient safety and customer value will be recognized and rewarded with preferential use and other intensified market reinforcements. The Leapfrog Group's growing consortium of approximately 80 companies and other large private and public health care purchasers provide benefits to approximately 25 million Americans and spends more than \$45 billion on health care. The Leapfrog Group is sponsored by The Business Roundtable, a national association of Fortune 500 CEOs. More information can be found at www.leapfroggroup.org.

ABOUT FIRST CONSULTING GROUP

First Consulting Group is a leading provider of information-based consulting, integration and management services for healthcare, pharmaceutical and other life sciences organizations in North America and Europe. The firm's services are designed to increase its clients' operations effectiveness, resulting in reduced costs, improved customer service, enhanced quality of patient care and the more rapid introduction of new pharmaceutical compounds. More information about FCG is available at www.fcg.com or by calling 800-345-0957.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR SAFE MEDICATION PRACTICES

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is a nonprofit organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, professional organizations and the pharmaceutical industry to provide education about adverse drug events and their prevention. The Institute provides an independent review of medication errors that have been voluntarily submitted by practitioners to a national Medication Errors Reporting Program ([MERP](#)) operated by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) in the USA. Information from the reports may be used by USP to impact on drug standards. All information derived from the MERP is shared with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ([FDA](#)) and pharmaceutical companies whose products are mentioned in reports. ISMP is dedicated to the safe use of medications through improvements in drug distribution, naming, packaging, labeling, and delivery system design. The organization has established a national advisory board of practitioners to assist in problem solving. The Institute can be contacted at 215-947-7797, and found on the web at www.ismp.org.

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

The California HealthCare Foundation is a non-profit philanthropy based in Oakland, California whose mission is to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of the people of California. Created as a result of the conversion of Blue Cross of California to a for-profit entity in 1996, CHCF is independently managed. Its phone is 510-238-1040; its web address is www.chcf.org.

ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based in Princeton, NJ, is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grantmaking in three goal areas: to assure that all Americans have access to basic health care at reasonable cost; to improve care and support for people with chronic health conditions; and to reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse — tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs. The foundation's web address is www.rwjf.org.

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