

## PainChek® partners with Nulsen Group to improve pain detection in people with complex disabilities

### HIGHLIGHTS

- PainChek's first partnership with a disability services provider
- Six-month trial will see the PainChek app deployed in five shared residential homes
- Nulsen Group will validate PainChek's ability to improve the detection of pain in individuals with complex disabilities
- Nulsen is a leading community and disability services provider supporting more than 4,000 Australians

PainChek® Ltd (ASX: PCK) ("PainChek®" or "the Company"), developer of the world's first smart phone-based pain assessment and monitoring application, is pleased to announce it has partnered with Nulsen Group to commence a six-month trial of PainChek's digital pain assessment app in National Disability Insurance Scheme ("NDIS") participants across five shared residential homes. This partnership marks the first of its kind entered into by PainChek® with a disability services provider.

The trial will allow both partners to validate PainChek®'s ability to improve the detection of pain in individuals with complex disabilities, particularly when a change of behaviour is detected or an individual is visibly distressed. In addition, participant conditions are able to be more effectively managed by the use of PainChek® — enhancing pain assessment and improving quality of life for the most vulnerable people with complex disabilities.

As a leading community and disability services provider in Western Australia, Nulsen Group provides care and support to more than 4,000 Australians with complex needs. It empowers people to live their best life with a range of disability, outcare, and therapy services.

PainChek® will be used by nurses, allied health professionals, management and support workers across the five Nulsen Group homes. The success of the trial will be evaluated by a number of quantitative and qualitative factors.

PainChek will generate revenue from the trial at its standard license rates, though the amount to be received as part of the trial is not expected to be material.

#### **Nulsen Group CEO Gordon Trewern said:**

"Those with disabilities who are unable to express their pain are the most vulnerable in our society for the mis-identification or non-identification of pain. PainChek® allows us to trial a new way that could help the disability support sector to further improve their services, and outcomes for these most vulnerable people."

PainChek® is an observational pain assessment app for mobile devices, which utilises artificial intelligence (facial recognition and analysis) in combination with smart automation, to provide a valid, reliable and accurate means of assessing pain.

To date, PainChek® technology has predominantly been rolled out for individuals living with dementia and cognitive impairments in an aged care setting, and is currently the most widely used digital healthcare tool in Australian residential aged care facilities. PainChek® is also exploring additional uses of the digital pain assessment technology in home care, hospitals, patients with delirium, and with pre-verbal children.

**PainChek® CEO Philip Daffas said:**

"PainChek® is delighted to work with innovative providers across all healthcare settings. Nulsen Group has had the vision to bring PainChek® to a new cohort: those living with disabilities who are unable to reliably report their own pain. Research into pain assessment in the disability market is ongoing, and we are excited to be able to contribute to an improved quality of life for people living with a disability."

According to the Federal Government, around 4.3 million Australians have a disability.

Those living with a disability have some of the highest rates of chronic pain in the community, with one in four people with a profound disability experiencing severe pain and two in three people with a spinal cord injury affected by ongoing pain. However, there are challenges in pain assessment and management among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities — including those with conditions associated with physical, learning, language, behavioural, and/or intellectual impairment, where pain is a common and debilitating secondary condition compromising functional abilities and quality of life.

Whilst self-reporting as a pain measure is used amongst this portion of the population, the ability of individuals with a disability to self-report may be limited or absent, depending on the severity of their condition.

This release has been authorized for release by CEO Philip Daffas.

**For more information:**

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**About PainChek®**

PainChek® Ltd is an Australian based company that develops pain assessment technologies.

PainChek® is a smart phone based medical device using artificial intelligence to assess and score pain levels in real time and update medical records in the cloud. PainChek® records a short video of the person's face and analyses the images that indicate pain and records them.

Next, the caregiver uses PainChek® to record their observations of other pain related behaviours that complete the assessment. Finally, PainChek® calculates an overall pain score and stores the result allowing the caregiver to monitor the effect of medication and treatment over time.

PainChek® is being rolled out globally in two phases: first, PainChek® for adults who are unable to effectively verbalise their pain such as people with dementia, and second, PainChek® for Children who have not yet learnt to speak.

The PainChek® Shared Care Program is a PainChek® licensing model which enables a professional carer to share their resident or patient data securely with other healthcare professionals or designated homebased family carers for ongoing pain assessments or clinical data review.

To find out more, visit [www.painchek.com](http://www.painchek.com)

### **About Nulsen Group**

Nulsen Group is a not-for-profit organisation that provides care and services to more than 4,000 Western Australians with complex support needs across the areas of disability, justice, housing and allied health. We have been part of the WA community for more than 65 years.

### **Sources:**

- <https://www.painaustralia.org.au/about-pain/who-it-affects/older-people-those-living-with-a-disability>
- [https://journals.lww.com/painrpts/fulltext/2020/08000/challenges\\_in\\_pain\\_assessment\\_and\\_management\\_among.1.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/painrpts/fulltext/2020/08000/challenges_in_pain_assessment_and_management_among.1.aspx)