

PainChek partners with Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation & Edith Cowan University to improve pain management in frail patients

PainChek® Ltd (ASX: PCK) (“PainChek®” or “the Company”), developer of the world’s first smartphone-based pain assessment and monitoring application, is pleased to announce it has partnered with Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation (Ramsay) and Edith Cowan University (ECU) for a research project that will investigate ways of minimising or stopping the progression of frailty in hospital patients. It is expected that better pain management is key to achieving these outcomes.

This project marks the first commercial agreement with a hospital organisation entered into by PainChek®. While the grant revenue associated with the project is not material to the business, it provides significant validation for the technology and allows the Company to forge a partnership with one of Australia’s leading hospital and health service providers.

PainChek CEO Philip Daffas said:

“Bringing PainChek® into the local and global hospital market has been a longstanding goal of the company, and this marks an important step toward that goal. We expect that a successful outcome from this research will provide for excellent opportunities with groups such as Ramsay and provides us a high-quality case study we can demonstrate with other potential customers.”

PainChek®, with Ramsay and ECU, provided the following joint release today:

PainChek® has been included in an exciting new research project, backed by the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation, which is examining how a nurse led volunteer program and better pain management could help improve outcomes for hospital patients who are frail.

Evidence to support the association between pain and frailty continues to grow. Pain prevalence increases with increased age, so too does frailty. As persistent pain can lead to functional disability, depression, and social isolation, it has been hypothesized that the burden of pain leaves older adults less capable to compensate, which increases the likelihood of frailty.

Led by Dr Rosemary Saunders from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Edith Cowan University, a consortium 12 researchers from five Australian universities, is investigating different ways of minimising or stopping the progression of frailty in hospital patients, through volunteer support interventions and optimal pain management facilitated by better pain assessment through the use of a new medical device PainChek®.

“In this study we’re first investigating the prevalence of frailty and pain across the hospital and then trialing interventions to address the magnitude of the problem.”

Dr Saunders said as part of the study, a group of frail patients at Hollywood Private Hospital in Western Australia would be given a volunteer support care plan tailored to their individual needs.

“It could be a volunteer assisting someone with their meals or helping them to go for a walk to improve their mobility,” she said.

“Other studies have found patients eat more or increase their weight when required, just by having a volunteer engaged in specific activities at meal times.”

Pain assessment can be challenging amongst elderly patients who cannot verbalise their pain, such as those with advanced dementia. This can place this group of patients at risk of their pain going under detected and under managed increasing their vulnerability to frailty. PainChek® is an observational pain assessment system, which includes a point-of-care application (App) which utilises artificial intelligence (facial recognition and analysis) in combination with smart automation, to provide a valid, reliable and accurate means of assessing pain has been included in the study to address this problem.

PainChek’s Chief Scientific Officer, Prof Jeff Hughes said: “The Nurse Led Volunteer Support and PainChek Frailty Study provides a great opportunity to evaluate the impact of technology enabled pain assessment on frailty progression associated with acute hospital admissions.” Acknowledging that frailty is often the result of multiple contributors, it is hoped the use of PainChek® will facilitate better pain control, hence mitigating its contribution to frailty.

The researchers will determine the effectiveness of the nurse led volunteer intervention program, the use of PainChek®, plus the use of the two methods combined.

The frailty project was made possible thanks to a grant from the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation.

Dr Saunders said: “It was a timely and important research project given the ageing population not only in Australia, but globally and growing challenge for health services.”

“To receive the funding is a really exciting opportunity because we have a highly experienced, multi-disciplinary research team and this is a study that can actually improve patient wellbeing and maximise their function in hospital and after discharge,” Dr Saunders said.

Director of Clinical Services at Hollywood Private Hospital, Karen Gullick said it was another example of Ramsay’s commitment to medical research to help improve patient outcomes.

“As we see more elderly people coming through it’s really important that we understand the impact of frailty on the patient and how we can translate that into providing the best care in our hospitals,” Ms Gullick said.

Work on the two-year study is underway. Positive findings could be used to guide the implementation of nurse led volunteer programs and pain assessment interventions across other Ramsay hospitals.

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

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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

About Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation

Ramsay Health Care established and registered the "Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation" (RHRF) in 2015 to help improve methods of preventing, diagnosing, treating and controlling diseases. This Foundation was endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office in 2016 as a deductible gift recipient. This enables the RHRF to receive gifts which are tax deductible to donors, such as donations by the Paul Ramsay Foundation.

The Foundation is governed by a board whose responsibilities include setting the policies and strategic direction, as well as monitoring compliance with legal and regulatory obligations and operational and financial performance.

About Edith Cowan University

Edith Cowan University (ECU) provides the ideal learning environment for people who want to reach their potential.

Located in Western Australia, our industry-relevant teaching and research, supportive study environment and award-winning facilities enable ECU students to do more than just survive in this world – they thrive in it.

Established in 1991, ECU took the opportunity to reshape the way higher education is delivered in a distinctive and inspiring campus environment.

ECU courses are developed in consultation with industry, and teaching staff have extensive industry experience and networks. It's why ECU students can expect placement opportunities, fieldwork, practicums and networking events as part of their studies.

This approach has been rewarded with five-star ratings for teaching quality over the past fourteen years, along with consistently high ratings for overall education experience and skills development, as reported in the *Good Universities Guide*.

ECU's world-class research strives to make a difference to the community in Western Australia and beyond. ECU focuses on working with our communities, business and government organisations to solve real-world problems.

The University was named after Edith Dircksey Cowan, the first woman to be elected to an Australian Parliament. Her life was dedicated to the belief that education was the key to growth, change and improvement in society.

Her example informs ECU's values as we pride ourselves in developing capable graduates who lead engaged and productive lives in the communities in which they live and work.