

## NEWS RELEASE

### **AHRQ SELECTS OUTCOME TO LEAD DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE FOR PATIENT REGISTRIES**

#### *Reference Document Will Provide Guidance on the Development and Evaluation of Patient Registries in the Public and Private Sectors*

**Cambridge, Mass. –Dec. 8, 2005-** Outcome Sciences, Inc. (OUTCOME), the leading provider of post-approval strategies and information-based solutions, announced today that it has been selected by the Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to develop and establish a document outlining guidance for patient registries.

Recent coverage decisions by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) indicate that some medical interventions will only be covered for certain patients when the patients are enrolled in a registry. This policy requires data collection from registries when medical evidence is not sufficient to allow unrestricted coverage of a treatment or service and is anticipated to foster the adoption of promising new technologies that could improve outcomes by linking technology diffusion to coverage. The goal of the registry guidance document to be developed by OUTCOME, drawing on a broad range of industry expertise and registry experience is to foster the successful design and best use of data from registries for CMS and other private sector payers.

Through the collective effort of a working group of scientists and technologists with expertise in the design, implementation and analysis of registry data, combined with OUTCOME's own extensive experience, the Company will lead the creation of a comprehensive web-based document that outlines the guidance for the creation and operation of registries designed to answer specific questions about patient outcomes of treatment. The involved experts will submit a series of papers for the project and a national workshop will be conducted and led by OUTCOME in the spring of 2006.

The document will also provide the public and the government with criteria by which to evaluate the quality of a registry and describe how registry data can be used to conduct valid scientific research. The final deliverable, a web-based document that will reside on the AHRQ Effective Health Care and CMS websites, will serve as a reference for establishing, maintaining and evaluating the success of registries created to collect data surrounding patient outcomes after receiving medical treatments and services.

"The nation's healthcare authorities recognize the important role that data can play in understanding outcomes and comparative effectiveness of drugs and devices, using the appropriate combination of science and technology," said Richard Gliklich, MD, president and CEO of OUTCOME. "We are pleased that AHRQ has chosen us to lead this effort and look forward to applying our own expertise alongside other experienced practitioners to establish guidance for patient registries."

OUTCOME was awarded the opportunity to develop the document as part of its previously announced participation as one of 13 research centers in the AHRQ's DEcIDE research network, a component of AHRQ's Effective Health Care initiative. The goal of the DEcIDE

network is to rapidly develop scientific evidence and new analytic tools to assist healthcare providers, patients and policy makers with making informed decisions about the comparative effectiveness, appropriateness, safety and outcomes of healthcare items and services, particularly prescription medications and medical devices.

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