



Population Health Impact Institute Makes Public Announcement to Start Evaluation Standards Process

September 30, 2005: The Population Health Impact (PHI) Institute publicly announced plans to assemble a user's committee to develop "impact evaluation standards" for disease management and other population health management projects. The initial focus of the committee is to advise the investigators on two grant-funded projects recently awarded the PHI Institute. The announcement was made to employers and others at the 18th Annual Benefits Management Forum & Expo in Orlando.

Both projects will assess the "strength of the evidence" and the validity of methods used in published studies of health programs. One project is funded by the Health Industry Forum of Brandeis University and involves the review of 25 published studies of health plan-based disease management programs. The other project, funded by the Institute for Health and Productivity Management, involves the scoring of 15 articles on many kinds of defined population work-site programs including executive physicals, immunizations, case management, wellness programs, and disease management.

Dr. Thomas Wilson, epidemiologist and founder of the PHI Institute, stated that "this committee will be both market-driven & science/evidence-based. The criteria developed in this inaugural standards development effort will form the basis for 'open-source' impact evaluation standards for broad industry use." He continued, "The Evaluation Standards Committee will be comprised of a select group of individuals representing key stakeholders in this domain, including private and public sector buyers, sellers, and program evaluators."

The new committee will use the five key evaluation principles of the PHI Institute as their framework for standards development: data quality (and transparency of methods to allow for replication), equivalence of intervention group to reference population, statistical quality, causal pathway legitimacy, and generalizability (i.e., external validity). The actual scoring of the articles will be performed by PHI Institute's Delphi Panel of impartial evaluation and clinical experts.

Information about the PHI Institute, an independent non-profit organization, is available at www.PHIinstitute.org.

Contact:

Thomas W. Wilson, PhD, DrPH
Founder and CEO
Population Health Impact Institute
Direct: 513-289-3743
twilson@PHIinstitute.org
www.PHIinstitute.org