Timely Instrument-Based Vision and Hearing Screening Promotes Early Detection, Consistency of Care at Community Health Centers

Welch Allyn to showcase two new screening devices for primary care physicians at NACHC 2014 Community Health Institute and Expo

San Diego, CA, August 19, 2014—Welch Allyn, Inc., a leading medical diagnostic device company that delivers pragmatic innovation at the point of care, will showcase two handheld screening instruments that help promote early detection of vision and hearing problems next week at the National Association of Community Health Centers’ (NACHC) 2014 Community Health Institute and Expo in San Diego. Designed to help quickly identify patients with refractive error and hearing loss, the Welch Allyn Spot™ Vision Screener and Welch Allyn OAE Hearing Screener will be on display at booth 506 in the Seaport Ballroom at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. Implementation of instrument-based screening devices allows for a consistent level of care by providing tools for clinicians to easily screen the eyesight and hearing of patients that rely on the services of their local community health center.

“Early detection of vision and hearing problems is the key to helping patients of all ages reach their full potential,” says Rick Farchione, senior global category manager at Welch Allyn. “Community health centers generally service medically underserved areas, which includes patients who are uninsured, underinsured, low-income or those living in areas where little access to primary care is available, so detecting issues early before they become serious problems helps keep cost out of the system. More importantly, early detection allows early intervention to help improve patient outcomes.”

Spot Vision Screener

Obtained through the company’s recent acquisition of PediaVision Holdings, LLC the Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener is a new generation of user-friendly vision assessment technology that transcends age, developmental capacity and mobility. Spot is a fast, portable, easy-to-use binocular Vision Screener with wireless communication capabilities designed to screen for
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refractive error which can be associated with several ophthalmological conditions in patients of all ages. The device complements the company’s existing vision screening technology, specifically, the Welch Allyn SureSight® Vision Screener and Autorefractor.

OAE Hearing Screener
The Welch Allyn OAE Hearing Screener is a portable, handheld device that delivers sounds into a child’s ear canal and measures the otoacoustic emission (OAE) response produced by outer hair cells in the cochlea. Designed to detect hearing loss in newborns, infants, toddlers, pre-school and school-age children, the device does not require patient response or practitioner interpretation of exam results. The rechargeable, portable device features wireless Bluetooth® connectivity that enables automated patient data transfer to Data Manager software that lets users sort data and generate reports.

“Bundled or standalone, our new screening instruments give providers a fast, accurate, objective response so their patients don’t have to,” added Farchione. “But they are more than just state-of-the-art diagnostic devices—they are connected solutions for primary care providers who will now be able to enroll even their youngest patients in early intervention programs to help mitigate the effects of vision and hearing loss. In a matter of seconds, they provide data that the clinician can use to help improve patient outcomes.”

About Welch Allyn, Inc.
Since 1915 Welch Allyn has brought a unique perspective to developing diagnostic solutions by combining pragmatic knowledge with a visionary spirit of innovation and ongoing improvement. As a leading global manufacturer of physical examination instruments and accessories and EMR-connected vital signs and cardiac monitoring solutions, the company has a steadfast commitment to delivering superlative medical products, services and solutions that help healthcare professionals provide better care for their patients. Welch Allyn is headquartered in Skaneateles Falls, N.Y. (USA) and employs more than 2,600 people in 26 different countries. Visit www.welchallyn.com for more information. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

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