



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **UNITED DRUGS TO IMPLEMENT EQUIPP PLATFORM** **Quality-Network Initiative Focuses on CMS Compliance, Patient Care, Clinical Outcomes**

PHOENIX, Jan. 29, 2014 — United Drugs, the nation's largest member-owned pharmacy services administration organization (PSAO), is implementing Pharmacy Quality Solutions' EQUIPP™ information-management platform to help its network of 1,300 independent pharmacies better understand performance metrics and to improve patient care and clinical outcomes.

“With the shift to value-based purchasing, the U.S. healthcare system faces its most significant transformation since the advent of managed care in the 1980s. Payers are navigating the complexities of a new reimbursement environment and independent pharmacists must meet ever-increasing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) compliance requirements,” said United Drugs' President Robert McMahan, PharmD.

In the traditional fee-for-service reimbursement environment, measuring volume was critical. But, today, payments also hinge upon quality, added Jon Copeland, RPh, CEO of United Drugs' parent organization American Associated Pharmacies (AAP). “Our network pharmacies cannot focus solely on old metrics in the dynamic and competitive world of accountable care, CMS Star ratings, medication adherence, and bundled payments. Today's emphasis must be on innovative and improved patient care.”

The ability to dashboard and track quality performance is a key component of United Drugs' 2014 quality-network strategy. “Our goal is to leverage the EQUIPP platform — and a variety of other tools to be announced soon — to increase Star ratings measurements for our pharmacies in a way that will provide greater network access going forward,” McMahan said.

Pharmacy Quality Solutions' President David Nau said, “Measuring performance is powerful in transforming the quality of the medication-use system, but only if pharmacies have access to standard dashboards that objectively reflect how they compare against meaningful quality measures. Our goal is to accelerate this transformation by making EQUIPP services broadly available so we can rapidly move from measurement to improvement. EQUIPP use by the United Drugs' nationwide membership is a major win for quality expansion.”

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**About United Drugs:**

American Associated Pharmacies (AAP) launched in 2009 when member-owned cooperative United Drugs (founded in 1976) merged with Associated Pharmacies, Inc. (API). Operating today as an AAP subsidiary, United Drugs is the largest national member-owned pharmacy services administration organization (PSAO) focused on delivering proven contract negotiation, central pay, audit protection, patient-care and compliance services to a dynamic independent pharmacy membership. United Drugs is headquartered in Phoenix, Ariz. In 2013, pharmacy membership was 1,300.

**About Pharmacy Quality Solutions, Inc. (PQS):**

PQS is a joint venture between Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) and CECity.com. It was created to deliver EQuIPP™ (Electronic Quality Improvement Platform for Plans and Pharmacies), the nation's first pharmacy-quality measurement, benchmarking and reporting platform. EQuIPP measures the quality of patient medication use, including non-adherence, and makes this measurement available and understandable. By aggregating data from multiple health plans within one performance database, EQuIPP enables community pharmacies to evaluate their performance across a broad range of patients.