



**PeaceHealth Laboratories' New Patent
Addresses a Leading Cause of Death: Prescription Drug Abuse**

PtProtect pain medication management program receives federal patent for ability to detect medication abuse or compliance prior to adverse events

SPRINGFIELD, OR – May 30, 2012 – PeaceHealth Laboratories today announced the national availability and receipt of a federal patent for PtProtect™ (Patient Protect). This pain medication monitoring program offers the industry's highest levels of accuracy to detect prescription pain medication and identify potential negative drug interactions before they occur. In five years of field testing, PtProtect has proven to regularly disclose patients' pain medication abuse or misuse previously unknown to their physicians.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the death rate from prescription medication overdose more than quadrupled from 1999 to 2008. Prescription drug abuse is now at the level of a public health epidemic. Drug overdose is a leading cause of death in the U.S.

Prescription drug abuse is also an expensive problem. The overall costs are estimated at more than \$70 billion per year. An addicted patient who receives prescriptions from multiple doctors can cost insurers \$10,000 - \$15,000.¹ PtProtect directly addresses the safety and financial concerns of prescription pain medication abuse by using the most sensitive and definitive assays to detect medication and illicit drugs.

In field tests, PeaceHealth Laboratories found that 35 percent of PtProtect test results returned discrepant results outside a patient's known prescriptions. The PtProtect pain medication panels identify patients who are taking or potentially diverting prescribed pain medications, taking pain medications that are not prescribed to them, or using drugs of abuse. "It's common for patients with ongoing addictive issues to not

¹ Source: CNNMoney February 24, 2012

always tell the truth about what medications they are taking,” said Joseph Regimbal, M.D. an internist at Endocrine Consultants Northwest in Tacoma, WA. “PtProtect gives me confidence that I am treating the patient correctly, and helps me prescribe what the patient needs.”

Overdoses from prescription medications result in an estimated 40 deaths every dayⁱ. For every death it’s estimated another 130 people become addicted and 825 people take prescription medication for no medical reason. “The primary benefit of PtProtect is safety,” said James R. Morris, M.D., a pain specialist with Pain Management Partners in Eugene, OR. “PtProtect gives me the ability to identify patients at risk who have an unsuspected diagnosis of substance abuse. The patient is grateful for discovering that.”

“PtProtect saves lives, saves practices and saves communities money,” said Ran Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer of PeaceHealth Laboratories. “Our scientists developed PtProtect so physicians may know, with confidence, what pain medications their patient is taking and prescribe accordingly to the highest levels of safety. This patent validates our rigorous science and practical application of this life-saving technology. It is a strong realization of PeaceHealth Laboratories’ dedication to patient safety and care. It also enables providers to protect their practices from uncertain liabilities including malpractice and patient mortality.”

PtProtect has the potential to significantly reduce accidental deaths due to prescription pain medication. “The main issue is to educate the patient about the dangers of mixing medications,” said Dr. Morris. “We are a pill oriented society where people take medications without really thinking about it. PtProtect identifies what is in their system so I can tell them what the dangers are.”

About PtProtect

PtProtect is a patented testing program that detects up to 38 prescribed medications and illicit drugs. Medications are revealed at the industry’s lowest thresholds for the most sensitive, comprehensive detection of opiates and opioids, thus reducing the possibility of adverse drug interactions. Simple and timely reporting allows doctors to quickly determine if test results are consistent or inconsistent with patient prescriptions.

In recognition of PtProtect's technology and capabilities, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued U.S. Patent No. 8,067,243 granting exclusive rights to PtProtect™.

PtProtect is available through PeaceHealth Laboratories and may be administered by physicians nationwide. For information about PtProtect, visit www.ptprotect.com or call 800-826-3616.

About PeaceHealth Laboratories

PeaceHealth Laboratories is a division of PeaceHealth, a not-for-profit health care system with a mission of promoting personal and community health since 1890.

PeaceHealth Laboratories provides comprehensive laboratory services throughout the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington and Alaska), and specialty testing for clinicians and employers across the U.S. With 9 laboratories and 27 patient service centers in 3 states, PeaceHealth Laboratories is one of the largest laboratory systems in the Pacific Northwest. Learn more at www.peacehealthlabs.org

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Drug	Detection Levels			PtProtect Threshold
	Trade Name	Instant Test Threshold	Competitive Tests Threshold	
Codeine	Tylenol-3	2,000 ng/mL	100 ng/mL	5 ng/mL
Hydrocodone	Vicodin and others	n/a	100 ng/mL	5 ng/mL
Hydromorphone	Dilaudid	n/a	100 ng/mL	5 ng/mL
Morphine	MS Contin, Roxanol	2,000 ng/mL	100 ng/mL	5 ng/mL
Oxycodone	Oxycontin, Tylox, Percocet	100 ng/mL	100 ng/mL	5 ng/mL
Oxymorphone	Numorphan, Opana	n/a	100 ng/mL	5 ng/mL

Case Study Sample:

A primary care physician had prescribed 10 mg Oxycontin® (oxycodone) every 12 hours for a woman, age 29, with chronic back-pain following an auto accident and 2 months of physical therapy. Since the patient was not well known to the physician, she ordered a PtProtect pain management panel to check compliance before renewing the oxycodone prescription.

Results:**Urine Drug Levels**

Oxycodone = negative

Oxymorphone = negative

Morphine = 7082 ng/mL

6-monoacetylmorphine = 126 ng/mL

Marijuana metabolite = 45 ng/mL

Interpretation:

The PtProtect report was negative for oxycodone and its metabolite oxymorphone but positive for morphine, 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM) and marijuana. The report's interpretation indicated that the positive 6-MAM was definitive proof of recent heroin use. The morphine test result was consistent with heroin use since heroin is metabolized to 6-MAM and morphine.

Patient Follow-up:

The patient said the morphine positive was from the poppy seed muffins she eats every morning. The PtProtect interpretation did not support this explanation relative to the morphine and 6-MAM results. Upon further discussion, the patient admitted to selling oxycodone tablets to fund her heroin habit.

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