



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Effectiveness of Patient Engagement Software in Predicting Fall Risks** *Aperum® Utilized in Key Research Study*

Kansas City, KS (11.19.2014) - Sphere3® announces its contribution of Aperum® patient engagement analytics software providing a necessary tool for conducting research recently published in the Clinical Nursing Studies.

This effort is part of continuing research focused on determining the effectiveness of patient engagement systems in preventing falls. The study is key to the larger interests for health systems throughout the United States in reducing patient fall rates. In preparation of this study, the researchers identified patient fall rates in the inpatient setting ranged from 1.3 to 8.9 per 1,000 patient days. Aperum® was used to evaluate fall incidents for a Midwest hospital related to time, patient requests, caregiver activities and unit activities leading up to the fall occurrence.

After meeting with the research team, Kourtney Govro, CEO of Sphere3®, was compelled to support the study by using Aperum® to obtain the necessary supporting data. “Peggy Ward-Smith and Lynn Barrett identified the national statistics for fall rates, and the data really spoke to me. I equate the fall rates to real people experiencing real problems. This means a major metropolitan area hospital with 300 patient beds could experience hundreds of falls each year. Those falls will range from incidents that require documentation to support the actions and behavior of the hospital staff to real adverse impact on the patient’s health and well-being requiring additional intervention, care and support” Govro said.

Lead researcher, Peggy Ward-Smith offers the following comments, “No hospital administrator wants a patient to encounter a fall while receiving care in their institution. The purpose of this study was to deconstruct actual fall incidents and identify physical and health-specific variables present just prior to the event. Knowing this information, together with implementing software capable of identifying when these risk factors are present, we believe provide strategies that will positively impact patient outcomes.”

Aperum®, when engaged in the stream of data flowing from the Nurse Call system related to patient request and caregiver engagement can capture the activities leading up to fall incidents. Today, Aperum® is used for better understanding of the conditions existing with an incident. Sphere3® uses its proprietary Indicares® to describe the events between patient and caregivers, as individuals and collectively within a care unit.

“Hospitals are beginning to realize patient to caregiver ratios no longer reflect the careful balance of patient needs and caregiver availability to respond. Our Indicares® are being recognized as much better predictors for the adequate staffing and behavior levels of caregivers based on actual patient demands.” Kourtney Govro adds, “Although Aperum® cannot prevent a fall today, we are not deterred in our efforts to achieve a predictive state for our Indicares® in the future.”



## **SPHERE3®**

Sphere3® products and services offer insight into actual patient need requests and caregiver capacity to help hospitals analyze the reliability of systems and better meet their needs. Sphere3® products and tools dissect this cascade of data associated with these requests and responses, escalations, and time frames. Over time, the organization can better manage the balance of demand-supply challenges and recurring patterns related to adverse events, using actual caregiver feedback compared to threaded alarm data.

\*\*\*The article featured in this press release can be found at:

Clinical Nursing Studies (2014, October 10) *"Effectiveness of a bed alarm system to predict falls in an acute care setting"* <http://www.sciedupress.com/journal/index.php/cns/article/view/5305/3465>

For additional information regarding this topic or to schedule an interview please call Kristal Rayson at 913.227.4478 x200 or e-mail at [KRayson@sphere3consulting.com](mailto:KRayson@sphere3consulting.com)

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