

PainChek—Press Release NZ Market

World's first clinically validated pain assessment app PainChek® launches in New Zealand

PainChek® enables best-practice pain management for New Zealanders in aged care

Innovative technology that utilises AI and a modern assessment framework to assess and score pain levels in real-time has made its way to New Zealand shores — empowering time-poor carers to identify pain in care centre residents living with dementia or cognitive impairment.

Almost 70,000 Kiwis are living with dementia, and this number is expected to reach 170,000 by 2050. Approximately a third (30.4%) are estimated to be living in residential aged care¹. Amongst these individuals, pain often goes undetected and mistreated as they may not be able to communicate their pain, or they are labelled as difficult or aggressive before it is discovered that they are in some form of physical pain.

PainChek® is the world's first clinically validated mobile app that uses artificial intelligence to analyse micro-expressions in a person's face and, combined with a set of simple observations, identify the presence and severity of pain in real-time, even when it is not obvious. The app is the technological evolution of manual pain assessment tools such as the widely used Abbey Pain Scale, which has been used to assess pain in people living with dementia for almost 20 years.

"With PainChek®, pain assessment is well on its way to becoming a new healthcare vital sign. We have already seen the positive effect it's having around the world," said Philip Daffas, CEO of PainChek®. "An independent evaluation has found that accurate pain assessments have resulted in a reduction in psychotropic medication by identifying pain as a cause of challenging behaviour, a renewed focus on pain assessment within facilities, and non-medication interventions being initiated to manage pain. We are thrilled to bring the benefits of PainChek® to carers and aged care residents in New Zealand."

In addition to assessing pain in those who cannot reliably self-report, PainChek® also helps carers document the pain scores of those who can self-report using the Numerical Rating Scale (NRS). Carers can also seamlessly switch between PainChek® and NRS assessments for residents

¹ Deloitte (March 2017). *Dementia Economic Impact Report 2016*. Available at: <https://cdn.alzheimers.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Economic-Impacts-of-Dementia-2017.pdf> [online]. (Accessed 8 September 2021).

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whose ability to communicate fluctuates between the two states, and access historical pain assessment data at the individual, care centre, and provider level through PainChek Analytics®.

The result is a complete point of care solution that empowers carers to accurately and rapidly detect pain, and monitor the effectiveness of interventions over time.

In addition to being available as an app on the App Store and Google Play, PainChek® is fully integrated with VCare, one of New Zealand's leading aged care software providers. This two-way integration allows PainChek® results to be directly uploaded into the platform in real-time to eliminate duplication of effort and manual handling of data, improve pain assessment data accuracy, and help carers track the outcomes of treatment and medication over time.

Since launching in 2017, PainChek® has already become the most commonly used software tool in Australian Residential Aged Care, with more than 60 per cent of the industry currently using or in the process of implementing PainChek®. The tool is also in use across the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada and Singapore. Over 500,000 assessments have been completed to date.

PainChek® is now available to all care centres and rest homes in New Zealand. Interested facilities can visit www.painchek.com/nz or call 0800-425-513 to enquire about PainChek®.

JOIN OUR FREE WEBINAR | WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER

VCare and PainChek: Enabling Best-Practice Pain Management in Aged Care

Date: Wednesday 6 October, 9-9.45am (AEDT)

Speakers: Nazeef Khan (VCare), David Allsopp (PainChek), James Matthias (PainChek)

Agenda:

- The role of technology/AI in aged care
- The importance of accurate pain assessment and management
- Overview and live demonstration of PainChek
- Walkthrough of the PainChek/VCare integration
- How to use PainChek in care plans
- Live Q&A

Effective pain management can be challenging for care centre residents who cannot verbalise their pain, such as those living with dementia or cognitive impairments. [PainChek](http://www.painchek.com)® is a clinically proven tool that uses AI and facial analysis to assist carers in accurately and rapidly detecting pain in these residents, in order to improve quality of care and quality of life.

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Learn how the PainChek® and VCare integration supports aged care and retirement villages to enable best practice pain management in this FREE webinar.

Discover:

- Why accurate pain assessment and management is crucial for aged care residents
- How the use of AI facial analysis, together with a modern assessment framework, can help carers accurately and consistently identify pain in residents who cannot self-report. How AI and facial analysis helps carers accurately and rapidly detect pain in residents who cannot self-report
- How the VCare and PainChek integration eliminates duplication of effort and manual handling of data, as well as streamlining clinical workflows around pain management, so carers can provide better care over time

All attendees will also receive a complimentary digital copy of the white paper “All attendees will receive a complimentary digital copy of the white paper “Pain & Dementia: Common Challenges for Care Managers.”

[REGISTER NOW](#)

About PainChek®

PainChek® uses AI, facial recognition and smartphone technology to intelligently automate the pain assessment process at the point of care. The tool is currently used in over 1,600 aged care facilities globally – giving over 129,189 people access to better pain assessment and management.