

ECRI Institute Names Kaiser Permanente Winner of 5th Annual Health Devices Achievement Award

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PLYMOUTH MEETING, Pa., Oct. 11 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- ECRI Institute® (www.ecri.org [1]), an independent nonprofit organization that researches the best approaches to improving patient care, is pleased to announce Kaiser Permanente (www.kp.org [2]), a leading healthcare provider and not-for-profit health plan, as the winner of the 5th annual *Health Devices Achievement Award* for excellence in health technology management. The *Health Devices Achievement Award* recognizes an outstanding initiative undertaken by an ECRI Institute member healthcare institution that improves patient safety, reduces costs, or otherwise facilitates better strategic management of health technology.

Kaiser Permanente's winning submission describes its groundbreaking initiatives, the National Total Joint Replacement Registry (TJRR) and the Cardiac Device Registry (CDR). These are comprehensive databases covering almost 150,000 joint-replacement and cardiac implants from regions across the United States. The registries allow the analysis of implant statistics, including complications, failures, replacements, usage, and costs. Mining these data identifies the most effective devices and surgical techniques, as well as patients who are at risk for re-operations and surgical complications.

"Our award evaluation committee was extremely impressed with how many ways the registries can be used to improve quality of care throughout Kaiser Permanente and at a national and even international level," says James P. Keller, Jr., ECRI Institute's Vice President for Health Technology Evaluation and Safety. "Kaiser Permanente's registries are extremely impactful. ECRI Institute is pleased to recognize such important work with our award."

Kaiser Permanente's project, 10 years in development, represents an unprecedented partnership between the surgeons who use implants and the hospital
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