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### **SKILLS® Wins 2015 Gold ABBY Award for Innovations in Healthcare(SM)**

*As a winner, the web-based system for designing and implementing comprehensive treatment plans for individuals with autism presented metrics to prove Skills® for Autism reduces the cost and increases efficiency of providing top-quality evidence-based autism treatment.*

WOODLAND HILLS, Calif. (Nov. 03, 2015) – The ABBY Award for Innovations in Healthcare(SM), presented by the Adaptive Business Leaders (ABL) at its October 21st awards event in Long Beach, California, recognizes innovative organizations and individuals who are dramatically reducing the cost of quality healthcare. As the Gold winner, SKILLS® presented metrics that demonstrate how its innovative system, Skills® for Autism, boosts the efficiency of behavioral health providers, saving clinician time and reducing costs while enhancing the overall quality of care. SKILLS® was selected from a pool of 37 semi-finalists from across the country vying for the award.

“We are honored to be recognized by the Adaptive Business Leaders for our efforts to increase access to evidence-based autism treatment,” said Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D, founder and executive director of Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) and the co-creator of Skills® for Autism. “Skills® for Autism is based upon decades of research on treating individuals with autism using applied behavior analysis, and it is a critical resource for clinicians to maximize supervision and therapy time.”

The Centers for Disease Control reports that 1 out of every 68 children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is empirically proven to be the most effective method to treat autism and is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General. However, a shortage of ABA professionals means that approximately 800,000 children in the US cannot access the medically necessary treatment they need to treat their autism diagnosis.

“Skills® for Autism improves user efficiency on many levels, both reducing treatment costs and allowing clinicians to treat more patients, ultimately addressing the long waiting lists for

starting treatment experienced today across the country”, said managing director of SKILLS®, Eliana Ferreira.

Skills® for Autism is a research and evidence-based, end-to-end clinical system for designing and implementing customizable and comprehensive treatment plans for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The skills identified in the assessment and curriculum are based upon developmental norms across all areas of human development. The Skills® LogBook app enables mobile, electronic data collection in real time to intuitively track treatment progress via easy-to-read charts and graphs while enhancing communication amongst staff. Ten published studies in peer-reviewed journals have demonstrated the effectiveness, validity, and reliability of Skills® for Autism.

According to ABL, the winners were selected by a committee composed of healthcare executives who are ABL members with extensive knowledge in each of the award areas. Judging took place by secret ballot following presentations from the chief executives of each organization.

**About SKILLS®:** With two patents pending, SKILLS® is the worldwide leading provider of software as a service solution for behavioral health, attending to the needs of four key segments: mental health clinicians, educators, managed care organizations, and families. The SKILLS® portfolio of web-based and mobile application tools is based on the evidence-based principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), with several studies published in peer-reviewed journals on its solid psychometric properties and clinical effectiveness. Founded in 2010, SKILLS® products are used by managed care organizations, families and autism treatment providers worldwide. For more information, visit [www.SkillsForAutism.com](http://www.SkillsForAutism.com).

**About the Adaptive Business Leaders (ABL) Organization:** Since 1989, the Adaptive Business Leaders Organization (ABL) has helped its Members grow great companies through its Healthcare CEO Round Tables. Each month, Members leverage each other’s skills, expertise, and connections, in a confidential, personal advisory board setting. During each session, Members share best practices with their non-competitive peers as they share “What’s Up?” and tackle topics like: “Reducing the Spend on the Medically Needy 5%,” “Implications of Expanded Medi-Cal for You,” “Creating a Culture of Accountability,” and “The App Will See You Now.” Also, each session has a Featured Member or Guest Speaker who makes a Strategic Advisory Board presentation, imparting valuable insights and in return receiving leveraged feedback from the Group. For more information, visit <http://roundtables.abl.org/>.

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