Minitab Statistical Software Adds G and T Control Charts for Monitoring Rare Events in Healthcare Facilities and Other Businesses

Latest update to top statistical software adds tools designed specifically for monitoring rare events in medical facilities and other environments.

State College, PA (PRWEB) October 31, 2011 -- Minitab® 16.2 Statistical Software, an update to the most recent version of the leading software used for quality improvement and statistics education, adds new control charts designed specifically for monitoring rare events.

The update is free for Minitab 16 users. The company also offers a free, fully functional, 30-day trial at http://www.minitab16.com

There are many different types of control charts, but Minitab Statistical Software’s new G and T charts make it easy to assess the stability of processes that involve rare events. Hospitals, for example, monitor medication errors, infections, patient falls, ventilator-associated pneumonias, and other uncommon adverse events that cause prolonged stays and increased costs.

Traditional control charts are not as effective at detecting important shifts in a rare events process. “Because the probability of these events is so low, you need to collect more data to create a traditional chart, which in turns means having to wait longer to detect a shift in the process,” says Michelle Paret, product marketing manager for Minitab.

“Fortunately, G and T charts do not require large quantities of data to effectively detect a shift in a rare events process.”

G and T charts are typically used to plot the number of days or opportunities between rare events. “For example, suppose we want to monitor heart surgery complications,” Paret says. “We can use a G chart to graph the number of successful surgeries that were performed in between the ones that occurred with unfortunate complications.”

The charts are simple to create and use. For example, the only data required to produce a G chart is either the dates on which the rare events occurred, or the number of opportunities between occurrences. Users who collect continuous data, such as the time of day when the events occurred, can use a T chart instead of a G chart.

The G and T charts are included in Minitab 16.2, a recent update to latest version of the leading software used for quality improvement and statistics education. The Minitab 16.2 update also adds Laney P' and U' control charts for attribute data, which help businesses ensure that only important deviations in a process are detected.

Minitab 16 has received rave reviews for its new functionality and features, especially the Assistant, a menu-based tool designed to guide users through their analyses and help them interpret their results with confidence.

“Minitab 16 is designed to open the door to statistical analysis for more people,” says Paret. “It’s the ideal solution for everyone who needs to analyze data in order to improve quality and make data-driven decisions.”

Thousands of companies worldwide use Minitab to analyze data for quality improvement programs. More than
4,000 colleges and universities use Minitab for teaching and research. Because it has been adopted by companies around the globe, Minitab 16 is available in English, French, German, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Documentation is available in several other languages.

The company offers two other products. Quality Companion by Minitab® is process improvement software designed specifically to help professionals manage and execute quality improvement projects. Quality Trainer by Minitab® is an e-learning course that teaches statistics and serves as an ongoing resource for professionals who use statistics to implement quality improvement.

About Minitab

Minitab Inc. is the leading provider of software for Lean, Six Sigma and quality improvement projects. Thousands of distinguished companies use Minitab software, including Toshiba, DuPont, Boeing, Royal Bank of Scotland, Nestlé and Pfizer.

Minitab Inc. is headquartered in State College, Pa., operates offices in the United Kingdom, France and Australia, and has additional representatives throughout the world.

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