

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Sept. 28, 2010

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***Six health groups receive grants to start patient advisory councils
Funds and support services will put patients at the forefront of care decisions***

(Portland, Ore.) — As part of its mission to bring measurable improvement to the quality of health care in Oregon, the Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation today announced partnerships with six local health care organizations to advance patient-centered care. The six organizations will receive technical assistance and start-up funding from the Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation (Quality Corp) to implement programs that place patients at every level of decision-making.

The groups selected to receive both monetary and support services are:

- Klamath Health Care Partnership, Klamath Falls, Oregon
- Cascade Medical Clinic, Redmond, Oregon
- Oregon Medical Group, Eugene, Oregon
- NW Primary Care, Portland, Oregon
- CareOregon, Portland, Oregon
- Providence Medical Group, Portland, Oregon

Last March, the Quality Corp project *Partner for Quality Care: Information for a Healthy Oregon* partnered with national patient engagement experts at PeaceHealth Medical Group (PHMG) in Eugene, Ore., to implement a program to help medical groups and health plans engage patients and families in leadership roles in their organizations. The program is funded through a grant of \$150,000 awarded to the Quality Corp by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The program, "Patients and Families as Health Care Leaders," is sharing patient- and family-centered care best practices from Oregon and across the nation to help health care organizations meaningfully partnership with patients and families to improve quality and patient safety. In addition to in-depth work with the six selected organizations, all interested

Oregon medical groups and health plans are invited to participate in statewide meetings, conference calls and an e-newsletter.

“Because of the Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation’s forward thinking approach and access to national experts, we now know what is happening across the state of Oregon in patient and family engagement, and we’ve also learned what is possible in the future,” said Mary Minniti, quality improvement director for PHMG and director of the grant. Over the last decade, Minniti’s teams at PeaceHealth have engaged patients and families in the development of programs and services across the communities it serves.

“When patients and families serve in leadership roles in the governance of health care organizations, bringing the consumer perspective to new programs, we believe that health systems can be revolutionized,” Minniti explained.

In partnership with faculty from the Institute for Family Centered Care, staff from PHMG and the Quality Corp will work closely with the six selected organizations to mentor and train patient advisors as well as doctors, administrators, staff, and other clinicians on communication, negotiation, and collaborative skills to facilitate working effectively as a group to solve complex problems. Patient advisors and health system leaders will share lessons learned and successes across the state and with other communities around the country.

“Together, we are building a network of patients, families and health care leaders who want to improve health care through effective collaboration. Oregon is poised to lead the nation in this emerging best practice approach to healthcare transformation,” said Nancy Clarke, executive director of the Quality Corp.

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Partner for Quality Care: Information for a Healthy Oregon is an initiative dedicated to measuring and improving health care through collaboration. Managed by the not-for-profit organization, the Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation, the initiative embraces a three-pronged approach to improving health care: measure the quality of health care; help practitioners use quality measurement information to improve systems of care; and provide the public with tools and information to help them become more involved in their own health care. For more information, visit www.PartnerforQualityCare.org.

The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation is a non-profit partnership managed by a balanced Board of Directors, senior representatives from health plans, physician groups, purchasers, hospitals, consumers and government that work together to improve health care quality. Founded in 2000, Quality Corporation’s projects have demonstrated the value of working cooperatively. For more information, visit www.q-corp.org.

PeaceHealth Medical Group (PHMG) is dedicated to improving the health of the community and providing access to care when and where patients need it. PHMG is made up of more than 70 primary care doctors and 60 specialists serving patients at clinics in Eugene-Springfield and Junction City. For more information, visit www.peacehealth.org/phmg