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OREGON HEALTH CARE QUALITY CORPORATION RECEIVES \$1.3 MILLION TO EXPAND EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OREGON HEALTH CARE

*The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation selects local nonprofit to
continue participation in national quality improvement initiative*

PORTLAND, ORE. (May 5, 2011) – The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation announced today that it has been selected to receive a grant of \$1.3 million over the next two years from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s *Aligning Forces for Quality* (AF4Q) initiative, a national effort to improve the quality and value of health care in communities across America.

The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation (Quality Corp) works to improve the health of Oregonians by engaging patients in their care, measuring and publicly reporting on the performance of physicians and hospitals, and collaborating with local health care organizations to implement quality improvement initiatives. Quality Corp is one of 16 organizations across the United States that has been designated as an *Aligning Forces* community, and has been participating in the initiative since 2007.

The *Aligning Forces for Quality* program was originally launched by the Foundation in 2006 and remains the largest effort of its kind ever undertaken by a U.S. philanthropy. The Foundation hopes to develop national models of reform based on the lessons learned by Quality Corp, as well as the other *Aligning Forces* communities.

“This next phase of *Aligning Forces for Quality* will bring exciting opportunities to Oregon and we are delighted to use these important resources to bring consumers, providers, health policy leaders, employers and insurers together to improve care in our state,” said Mylia Christensen, executive director of the Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation.

In the next two years, Quality Corp will collaborate with stakeholders across the state on initiatives aimed at improving the quality, value and coordination of health care in Oregon. Quality Corp will continue to provide statewide reporting of quality and utilization information and will expand its programming to include additional information about patients’ experiences with their physicians.

Quality Corp will also leverage and coordinate community activities focused on improving care for Oregonians with low back pain and reducing hospital readmissions for patients with congestive heart

failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. These areas provide important opportunities to increase the quality and value of Oregon health care.

“The *Aligning Forces* communities are models of health care improvement. The community organizations working on this effort have pioneered ground-breaking concepts that are also being explored through federal reform and have attracted bipartisan support, such as physician performance reports, patient-centered medical homes, and of late, payment reform,” said Anne F. Weiss, MPP, team director and senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “In this next phase, communities will continue to make measurable improvements in quality by placing greater focus on increasing the value of health care delivered.”

AF4Q is designed to drive quality improvement by aligning key players in local communities, and brings an unprecedented commitment of resources, expertise and training to turn proven practices into real results. Quality Corp’s continued participation brings direct financial support and technical assistance and training from national experts, coordinated by the Center for Health Care Quality at The George Washington University, the national AF4Q program office.

Additional grant recipients include:

- Albuquerque Coalition for Healthcare Quality – Albuquerque, N.M.
- Alliance for Health – Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Better Health *Greater* Cleveland – Cleveland, Ohio
- Community Health Alliance of Humboldt-Del Norte, Inc. – Eureka, Calif.
- Greater Detroit Area Health Council – Detroit, Mich.
- Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati – Cincinnati, Ohio
- Healthy Memphis Common Table – Memphis, Tenn.
- Healthy York County Coalition – York, Pa.
- Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium – Kansas City, Mo.
- Maine Aligning Forces for Quality – Augusta, Maine
- Massachusetts Health Quality Partners – Boston, Mass.
- Minnesota Community Measurement – Minneapolis, Minn.
- Puget Sound Health Alliance – Seattle, Wash.
- P² Collaborative of Western New York – Buffalo, N.Y.
- Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality – Madison, Wis.

For more information about the Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation and its work, visit www.q-corp.org.

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*The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 35 years, the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.*

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