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Public-Private Coalition Working to Ensure Reform Improves Health Care Affordability and Quality

Oregon Health Care Quality Corp Part of 165-Member National Coalition Pushing for Federal Health Reform that Addresses More than Access to Insurance

March 31, 2009. – Most health care reform proposals focus on how to get more people covered by insurance. However, a large coalition of national and regional groups of doctors and hospitals, employers, patient groups and others – including the Oregon Health Care Quality Corp – recognizes that simply having health insurance does not assure that patients can access affordable care that is safe, efficient and responsive to their needs.

The Oregon Health Care Quality Corp. is part of a new nationwide public-private coalition, Stand for Quality, which joined together with a shared belief that improvements in access, quality, and affordability are inextricably linked. Stand for Quality today announced a specific framework for federal health care reform to improve the quality and affordability of health care for all patients. The framework includes six key recommendations:

1. Set national priorities and provide coordination for quality improvement;
2. Endorse and maintain nationally standardized measures;
3. Develop measures to fill gaps in priority areas;
4. Involve doctors and other stakeholders in developing policies on use of measures;
5. Collect, analyze, and make performance information available and actionable;
6. Support a sustainable infrastructure for quality improvement.

Health care quality is also front-and-center in Oregon's state-level reform effort. The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation has also been championing the creation of a Quality Institute, as recommended by the Oregon Health Fund Board. "We can't increase and sustain access to health care unless we also improve the way services are delivered,"

said Nancy Clarke, Executive Director. “Investing in a public-private effort to champion quality improvement is a critical building block to health care reform.”

For more about the specific recommended framework for federal health care reform and the 165 private and public members of Stand for Quality, go to www.standforquality.org.

The Oregon Health Care Quality Corp brings together health plans, purchasers, the public, and primary care practitioners to measure and improve health care quality in Oregon. The organization manages the *Partner for Quality Care: Information for a Healthy Oregon* initiative. The initiative embraces a three-pronged approach to improving health care quality: measure the quality of health care; help practitioners use quality measurement information to improve systems of care; and educate the public about their role in contributing to quality health care. For more information about the Quality Corp, visit www.q-corp.org.

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