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PARTNERS IN CARE PHYSICIAN ORGANIZATION REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY BY JOINING QUALITY INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

First Physician Group in Country to Sign National Document on Quality and Transparency in Health Care Becomes 10th Member of NJHCQI Leadership Council

TRENTON – The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute (NJHCQI) has added a strong new ally to its efforts to reduce medical errors, improve overall quality and promote transparency in cost and quality data. Partners In Care, Corp., (“PIC”) a physician organization serving over 850 private practice physicians has become the 10th member of the NJHCQI “Leadership Council” it was announced today.

“We are extremely pleased to have Partners In Care join our Leadership Council, and more importantly, to give us some real expert advice and counsel in our pursuit of quality health care in the State of New Jersey,” said NJHCQI President and CEO David L. Knowlton. “Partners In Care has been a national leader in its advocacy for improved health care quality. Having them on the Quality Institute team brings real clout to our efforts.”

“Physicians need to see the complete picture – not just test results, in order to effectively treat and advise their patients,” said Steven Goldberg, MD., Chairman, Partners In Care. “It makes sense that we use the same approach to diagnose and treat the ills of the health care system. Partners In Care is delighted to join with the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute in its efforts to reduce medical errors and improve overall health care quality in New Jersey.”

Kevin O'Brien, President and CEO of the East Brunswick based PIC added: “We look forward to working with the Quality Institute to provide expert analysis of its programs and projects and to provide important physician feedback which will enable us together to implement improvements that will save lives by reducing medical errors.”

Physician owned and governed, Partners In Care is a physician organization dedicated to 21st century health care delivery and financing. Partners In Care has been successfully operating performance-based incentive programs involving approximately 80,000 members over the past twelve years. As a leading Health Care Delivery System Management firm, PIC serves three participating physician groups: the United Medical Group, PC, Central Jersey Physician Network, and Vista Health System. These groups collectively represent approximately 850 physicians, serving about 1 million patients, and deliver/coordinate over \$2 billion in annual healthcare expenditures. PIC currently provides Care Coordination and health plan improvement services to a number of health plans and employer/plan sponsors. The clinical/financial reporting capability allows PIC to deliver actionable information to physicians. For further information please visit:

www.piccorp.com

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In December of 2006, Partners In Care became the first physician organization in the country to sign the "Statement of Support for the Four Cornerstones of Value-driven Health Care" outlined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). By signing the statement Partners In Care voluntarily agreed to purchase health care on behalf of its employees based on overall value, quality and efficiency of care. The "Four Cornerstones" called for by HHS are:

- ✓ Support health information technology
- ✓ Provide quality information
- ✓ Provide pricing information
- ✓ Promote quality and efficiency of care

The NJHCQI seeks to empower health care purchasers and consumers by publishing the results of objective research, comparative data on providers, and other pertinent educational information so that purchasers and consumers may adopt value-based purchasing practices and be able to make informed decisions on the merits of various health care programs, treatments and services. The NJHCQI was designated as the lead agency in New Jersey for the national Leapfrog Group effort in April 2002.

The NJHCQI Leadership Council now consists of the following 10 members:

The New Jersey Health Care Payers Coalition
The New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey
The Healthcare Institute of New Jersey
The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Princeton Partners
New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group
Actuarial Management Strategies, Inc.
Partners in Care Corp.

Those serving on the NJHCQI Board of Directors include: Former Governor Jim Florio; Gil Medina, Former New Jersey Commerce Commissioner; Director, Technology Enterprise Group, Cushman & Wakefield; Andrea Aughenbaugh, CEO, New Jersey State Nurses Association; George Laufenberg, Administrator, New Jersey Carpenters Fund; Len Leto, Manager, Policy & Planning, State Health Benefits Program, Past President, State & Local Government Benefits Association and, Chairman of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute; Lou Marturana, (Retired) Public Service Electric & Gas; Suzanne M. Miller, Ph.D., Director, Psychosocial & Behavioral Medicine Program, Behavioral Center of Excellence in Breast Cancer, Senior Member, Division of Population Science, Fox Chase Cancer Center ; Judy Persichilli, 'Executive Vice President, Mid-Atlantic Division, Catholic Health East; Dr. Michael Sedrish, Director of Utilization Management, MediSys Health Network, Inc.; and, Edward Geisler, , Executive Director, Health Care Payers Coalition of New Jersey.

The NJHCQI currently has five affiliated "councils:" The NJHCQI Leadership Council, The NJHCQI Purchaser Council, The NJHCQI Provider Council, The NJHCQI Plan Council and The NJHCQI Consumer Council

Important consumer health care and council membership information can be found at the NJHCQI web site: www.njhcqi.org