



For Immediate Release

NRHI Support for the Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network

Portland, Maine (March 25, 2015)—The Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI), a leader in transforming U.S. health care through community-based, multi-stakeholder, public-private efforts, supports the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) initiative to move the Medicare program and the health care system at large, toward paying providers based on the quality, rather than the quantity of care. Today at the White House, NRHI's President and CEO, Elizabeth Mitchell will join HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell and President Obama, along with stakeholders from over 100 organizations representing every corner of the health care industry, to kick off the launch of the Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network, a key component of the HHS initiative. President Obama will deliver remarks on how the health care law is improving health care quality and lowering costs.

“We applaud the aggressive timeline for care and payment reform—we must move now to a system that creates better care at lower cost. It will take all parties working together to achieve meaningful change and it requires engagement of all stakeholders. Regional health improvement collaboratives are doing this work across the country with real results—improved care, improved health, and lower costs. NRHI brings regional work to national scale and is dedicated to accelerating this change, learning from communities across the US. We bring people together to transform care and we look forward to partnering with the Administration on these important efforts.” said Elizabeth Mitchell.

“As a Regional Health Improvement Collaborative (RHIC), we know firsthand what it takes to build alignment among payers and in partnership with providers and all stakeholders. We also serve as a trusted neutral source of data and a catalyst for change. Progress moves at the speed of trust - that's the critical ingredient that we cultivate at the local level through investing in personal relationships, learning programs, and collaboration year after year after year,” Mylia Christensen, Executive Director of Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation and Board Chair of NRHI.

The [Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network](#) (“Network”) will serve as a forum for public-private partnerships including a variety of stakeholders to help drive the health care system towards greater value-based purchasing—rather than continuing to reward volume regardless of quality of care delivered. HHS has set a goal of moving 30 percent of Medicare payments into alternative payment models by the end of 2016 and 50 percent into alternative payment models by the end of 2018. Alternative payment models include models such as Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), bundled payments, and advanced primary care medical homes. Overall, HHS seeks to have 85 percent of Medicare payments tied to quality or value by



2016 and 90 percent by 2018. Over 2,800 patients, insurers, providers, states, consumer groups, employers and other partners have registered for the Network.

Payment and delivery system change must happen from the ground up with leadership from physicians and purchasers working together. NRHI members are leading this work in their communities and working together to accelerate improvement. Working with its regional members, NRHI has a long history of producing groundbreaking work on payment reform and is committed to sharing best practice and helping communities across the U.S. create ways to measure and control costs and improve quality so that high-value healthcare can be delivered and rewarded. NRHI recently released its latest paper in its Payment Reform Series: *Advancing Transparency to Reform Payment: The Top Dos and Don'ts from Regional Multi-Stakeholder Collaboratives*, which can be found at <http://www.nrhi.org/work/implementing-payment-reform/>. Today's inaugural meeting of the Network is being live streamed at 10:00 am EDT on the [White House website](#).

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About the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement
www.nrhi.org @reghealthimp #HealthDoers

The Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement is a national organization representing regional multi-stakeholder groups working towards achieving the Triple Aim of better health, better care, and reduced costs through continuous improvement. NRHI and all of its members are non-profit organizations, separate from state government, working directly with physicians, hospitals, health plans, and patients using data to improve health care.

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