

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*A participant in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's  
Aligning Forces for Quality initiative to improve  
health and health care in Oregon.*

## **NEW Q CORP PUBLIC REPORTS INCLUDE MEDICARE DATA TO HELP CONSUMERS BETTER COMPARE THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE IN OREGON**

***Reports released today are the first in the U.S. to include Medicare data as part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Qualified Entity Certification Program***

**PORTLAND, ORE. (August 26, 2014)** – The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation (Q Corp) today released the nation’s first public reports on the quality of local primary care that include data provided by Medicare through the Qualified Entity Certification Program, significantly expanding the information consumers can access about the quality of care in Oregon.

Published on Q Corp’s [Partner for Quality Care website](#), the reports enable Oregonians to compare how clinics perform in areas such as preventive care, chronic disease care and appropriate use of health care services. The new Medicare data permitted Q Corp to increase the number of clinics in its reports. For example, consumers can now compare the quality of care for heart disease provided by more than twice as many clinics as in the previous report.

Q Corp, a nonprofit organization, has been a leader in the local effort to provide the public with information about the quality of health care delivered in Oregon’s clinics and hospitals. In 2008, Q Corp published the first public reports of health care quality for primary care clinics across the state. In recognition of this groundbreaking work, in 2012, Q Corp was one of the first three organizations in the U.S. selected as a Qualified Entity by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This designation permitted it to obtain fee-for-service (FFS) claims data submitted by Oregon clinics to Medicare. The new Medicare data offers information on the quality of health care provided to more than 350,000 Medicare members in Oregon.

“Our organization is dedicated to improving the quality and affordability of health care in Oregon by leading community collaborations and producing unbiased information,” says Mylia Christensen, Executive Director at Q Corp. “We are delighted that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has joined our longstanding collaborative efforts so that we can now provide information on the care received by over 2.6 million Oregonians.”

Q Corp’s public reports on health care quality and utilization are based on claims data contributed by 12 of Oregon’s largest health plans, the Oregon Health Authority’s Division of Medical Assistance Programs, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This work is guided by a multi-stakeholder measurement and reporting committee that makes decisions about the methodology used to produce the reports. To be included in the report, a clinic must have at least three primary care providers and at least 30 patients who meet the strict criteria to be included in the measures of care. The addition of Medicare FFS claims data allows more clinics to meet the strict threshold of 30 patients in a measure.

Q Corp's public reporting program is also supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's [Aligning Forces for Quality](#) (AF4Q) initiative, a program operating in 16 communities across the United States. Q Corp's national recognition also includes designation as a Chartered Value Exchange by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and membership in the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement.

For more information about the public reports available on the *Partner for Quality Care* website, visit [www.PartnerforQualityCare.org](http://www.PartnerforQualityCare.org). For more information about Q Corp, visit [www.Q-Corp.org](http://www.Q-Corp.org).

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***The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation*** is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality and affordability of health care in Oregon by leading community collaborations and producing unbiased information. We work with the members of our community – including consumers, providers, employers, policymakers and health insurers – to improve the health of all Oregonians. For more information, visit [www.Q-Corp.org](http://www.Q-Corp.org).