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California's Physician Groups Honored for Quality Performance and Improvement

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – The California Association of Physician Groups today announced that 45 of their member physician organizations, which represent approximately 7 million patients statewide, were awarded the highest overall quality rating in 2009 from the Integrated Healthcare Association's (IHA) statewide Pay for Performance (P4P) program.

“CAPG is proud of the outstanding performance of our member physician groups,” said CAPG’s President and CEO Donald Crane. “These organizations have set rigorous goals and standards for themselves and for the care they provide. The P4P results represent the culmination of their efforts to continually provide quality, affordable and accountable patient care.”

The IHA evaluated 221 physician groups and granted awards based on four pay-for-performance measurement categories including: Clinical quality; coordinated diabetes care; information technology-enabled systems; and patient experience. Top performing physician organizations were identified by calculating a score in each of the four P4P measurement domains, which are then weighted to compute an overall composite score. To review the award winners and complete methodology go to: http://www.iha.org/p4p_awards.html.

In addition to the top performance awards, IHA presented a second set of awards to the physician group in each of the eight California P4P regions that demonstrated the greatest overall improvement over the previous year. Overall composite scores based on the four P4P measurement domains are calculated annually for each physician organization, to compute the amount of overall improvement the organization achieved over the previous year. The group that scored the highest for improvement in its P4P region is designated as the most improved organization.

The P4P measurement results are not only used to recognize outstanding physician groups, they are also used by seven health plans – Aetna, Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield of California, CIGNA HealthCare of California, Health Net of California, Western Health Advantage and United Healthcare – to calculate incentive payments for distribution to physician groups in 2010. Health plan incentive payments paid in 2009 were \$52 million to physician organizations as a result of meeting P4P measurement criteria for clinical quality, patient experience, and information technology.

“The Pay for Performance Program is a reliable and impartial tool to help assure patients that they are receiving the highest quality of care by physicians who use the latest health information technology to make treatment decisions and truly care about their overall health and well-being,” Crane said. “The rigorous criteria established in the P4P Program will soon be the standard expected of all groups as we enter a new era of healthcare.”

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