

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Six California Physician Groups Selected As Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations by Department of Health and Human Services**

*California leads the nation in innovative healthcare initiative #*

Los Angeles, Calif. – [The California Association of Physician Groups](#) (CAPG) announced today that US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) selected six of its member physician groups as part of its “pioneer” accountable care organizations initiative. [The Pioneer ACO Model initiative](#) was designed specifically for organizations with experience offering coordinated, patient-centered care, and operating in ACO-like arrangements to test the impact of different payment arrangements in providing better care to patients, and reducing Medicare costs. The selected organizations were chosen for their significant experience offering this type of quality care to their patients.

“This is outstanding news for physician groups in California who have been working for decades to provide high quality patient care while containing costs,” said Donald Crane, president and CEO of CAPG. “With six of the 32 organizations coming from California – the most of any state – we believe this is testament to the maturity and excellence of our capitated and coordinated care model.”

The six CAPG members selected were:

[Brown & Toland Physicians](#), San Francisco, CA

[Healthcare Partners Medical Group](#), Los Angeles and Orange Counties, CA

[Heritage California ACO](#), Southern, Central and Coastal, CA

[Monarch Healthcare](#), Orange County, CA

[Primecare Medical Network](#), San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, CA

[Sharp Healthcare System](#), San Diego, CA

“California’s physician groups have made great strides over the years in demonstrating that the accountable care organization model is far superior to the antiquated fee-for-service system. We look forward to illustrating early and excellent results to prove this concept can succeed and be duplicated nationally.”

According to HHS, the Pioneer ACO Model initiative will encourage primary care doctors, specialists, hospitals and other caregivers to provide better, more coordinated care for people with Medicare and could save up to \$1.1 billion over five years. The initiative will test the effectiveness of several innovative payment models and how they can help experienced organizations to provide better care for beneficiaries, work in coordination with private payers, and reduce Medicare cost growth. These payment models will allow organizations that are successful in achieving better care and lower cost growth to move away from a payment system based on volume under the fee-for-service model, towards one where the ACO is paid based on the value of care it provides.

**About CAPG**

The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) represents groups that employ or contract with nearly 60,000 California doctors and provide care to 15 million Californians. CAPG is committed to improving healthcare for Californians and supports a progressive and organized system of healthcare delivery, which focuses on coordinated treatment plans and comprehensive coverage, including the most current preventive services and exams. This allows physicians to focus on illness prevention and proactive management of patients in order to maintain their optimum level of health. #