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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Phoenix Coalition Awarded Health Care Quality Pilot.

One of six U.S. sites chosen. Pioneering database is recognized.

PHOENIX, AZ—The Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance (AQA) today selected the Phoenix Regional Health Care Value Measurement Initiative (The Phoenix Project) as one of six sites that will put meaningful and transparent quality information into the hands of physicians, consumers and purchasers of health care.

The Phoenix Project will combine public and private data to measure and report on physician practice. “Consumers want and need information to get better care at a lower cost,” said Mark McClellan, administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). “Thanks to strong local leadership and a broad national partnership, this pilot project will bring together information from the private and public sectors to provide a clear picture of quality and cost for ambulatory care providers.” The AQA pilot project will be supported with funding from CMS and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

The award recognizes and helps to further the vision of Arizona Health Query, a pioneering project led by Dr. William Johnson of Arizona State University. What started as a demonstration project has transformed into a major Arizona initiative funded and facilitated for the last four years by St. Luke’s Health Initiatives. “Without timely and relevant information on quality and cost, we’re flying blind,” noted Roger Hughes, Executive Director for St. Luke’s Health Initiatives. “The technology and scale to deliver that information is now in place. With this recognition and selection by AQA, we look forward to joining the public-private partnership and creating an unprecedented resource with value for all Arizonans.”

Arizona Health Query has been at the forefront of increased interest in measuring performance and outcomes across both time and systems. Its goal is to encourage and foster continuous quality improvement for all players. Results of The Phoenix Project are expected to help provide a national template for performance measurement and public reporting.

About SLHI

Established in 1995, St. Luke's Health Initiatives (SLHI) focuses on informing public policy and developing communities via a strength-based approach. As a public foundation, SLHI convenes available resources, advocates on issues, models successful organizational practices and provides developmental funding. For additional information, please visit www.slhi.org.

About AQA

AQA is a broad based national coalition of more than 125 organizations that seeks to improve health care quality through a process in which key stakeholders agree on a strategy for measuring, reporting, and improving performance at the physician level. These 125 organizations represent physicians, consumers, employers, government, health insurance plans, and accrediting and quality organizations.

The organizations selected by AQA as initial pilot sites are the following:

*California Cooperative Healthcare Reporting Initiative
Massachusetts Health Quality Partners
Indiana Health Information Exchange
Minnesota Community Measurement
Phoenix Regional Healthcare Value Measurement Initiative
Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality*

Contact

Jon Ford, Associate Director, Communications

St. Luke's Health Initiatives

Phone: 602-385-6508

Email: jon.ford@slhi.org

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