



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Denver Healthcare Company Selected in Federal Medicare Improvement Model

*Physician Health Partners one of 32 Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations selected in the United States*

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**Denver** - Physician Health Partners, a medical management company, along with its three strategic partner independent practice associations (IPAs), announced today it has been selected to participate in the Pioneer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model. The Pioneer ACO model is designed to encourage the development of ACOs, which are groups of physicians and other healthcare providers who work together to provide high quality care for their Medicare patients. This model is a transformative new initiative sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center. Physician Health Partners is the only Pioneer ACO selected in Colorado.

"These Pioneer ACOs represent our nation's leaders in health systems innovation, providing highly coordinated care for patients at lower costs," said Marilyn Tavenner, Acting Administrator of CMS. "Physician Health Partners has demonstrated significant experience in providing high quality, coordinated care, and we are excited to partner with them," Tavenner said.

Physician Health Partners and the partnering IPAs (Primary Physician Partners, South Metro Primary Care, and KEY Primary Care Physicians) will collaborate to improve patient care while lowering the associated costs. Their primary care physician model focuses on creating medical homes, providing care resources, and managing the care of their patients throughout various healthcare settings. Based in Denver, this collaborative consists of more than 260 primary care physicians who provide care for approximately 450,000 people in the 7 county metro area.

"We are excited to showcase our unique model that has been shown to improve health outcomes," Kenneth Nielsen, Physician Health Partners' President and CEO said. "This is an opportunity for us to demonstrate the importance of primary care physicians and the role they will play in future reform efforts."

As one in a diverse group of leading-edge healthcare organizations from around the country, Physician Health Partners was chosen specifically by the Innovation Center to test the effectiveness of several models of payment to assist healthcare providers make a rapid transition to higher quality care at a lower cost to Medicare. Physician Health Partners will work with hospital systems, like-minded specialists, and community resources to improve care and the Medicare experience for nearly 28,000 Medicare recipients. The providers' performance will be measured and held to high quality and cost-control standards from CMS.

Today's announcement is the culmination of a competitive selection process that began in May, 2011 with the national release of a Request for Applications from CMS. Physician Health Partners was selected based on its demonstrated capabilities to offer high quality, coordinated care.

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**About CMS and ACOs:**

The Pioneer ACO Model is designed to encourage the development of ACOs, which are groups of doctors and other healthcare providers who work together to provide high quality care for their patients. Under the Pioneer ACO Model, CMS will provide incentives for participating healthcare providers who form an organization to coordinate care for patients. Providers who band together through this model will be required to meet quality standards based upon, among other measures, patient outcomes and care coordination among the provider team.

Unlike a managed care plan, Medicare beneficiaries will not be locked into a restricted panel of providers. The Pioneer ACO Model is not a health plan or managed care plan. Under the Pioneer ACO Model, beneficiaries seeing doctors participating in an ACO will maintain the ability to see any doctor or healthcare provider, as well as the full benefits associated with traditional Medicare.

The Pioneer ACO Model is one of a number of initiatives developed by the new Innovation Center. The Innovation Center was created by the Affordable Care Act to test new models of healthcare delivery and payment.

**About Physician Health Partners:**

Physician Health Partners (PHP) is an integrated team of physicians and healthcare professionals committed to supporting effective patient care throughout the healthcare continuum. Founded in 1996 as a management services organization, PHP believes physicians and other providers have the capability and responsibility to drive high quality, cost-effective healthcare for patients. Through our robust Clinical Quality Improvement Services and diverse medical management solutions, PHP works tirelessly to support primary care physicians in improving clinical outcomes for the benefit of the patient. By improving clinical outcomes, enhancing provider performance and developing practice efficiencies, patients' health status is improved and overall healthcare costs are reduced.

Physician Health Partners collaborates with more than 300 primary care providers, both physicians and mid-level providers, in the Denver metro area and approximately 600 specialists who share a goal of providing the right care, at the right time, and in the right setting to improve the quality of care and lower the costs associated.

**Research Links**

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