



News Release

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MINNESOTA BRIDGES TO EXCELLENCE AND THE QUALITY INCENTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM RECOGNIZE 276 CLINICS FOR EXCEPTIONAL PATIENT CARE

Programs focus on clinical improvements, achievements for diabetes, vascular disease and depression

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (July 13, 2016) – In today’s dynamic health care environment, a forward-thinking group of public and private sector purchasers of health care is focused on helping Minnesotans achieve the best possible health outcomes from the clinical care they receive. Recognizing the unique opportunity to use purchasing power to drive greater good in communities, the [Minnesota Health Action Group](#) (The Action Group) announced today that [276 Minnesota and border state clinics](#) have been rewarded for improving clinical outcomes as part of its 2016 Minnesota Bridges to Excellence program and the State of Minnesota’s Quality Incentive Payment System, a companion program that is administered by The Action Group.

The clinics will share \$997,772 in rewards for **achieving** optimal care measures or **improving** specific outcomes for patient with diabetes, vascular disease and depression; three conditions that impact hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans and are known to be primary drivers of health care costs.

A guiding coalition of health care purchasers, providers, health plans and organizations involved with quality reporting and improvement collaborates with The Action Group to set performance goals for the Minnesota Bridges to Excellence program to ensure continuity with other market initiatives. Clinics that meet the performance goals receive a financial reward based on the number of patients (who receive health care benefits from these participating purchasers) that are treated at their clinics.

“Health care is dynamic and everything – from clinical guidelines to best practices and benefit plan designs – is changing, yet improving health and health care remains a shared priority,” said Carolyn Pare, president and CEO, Minnesota Health Action Group. “Through Minnesota Bridges to Excellence, health care purchasers who work with The Action Group have continued to send a clear

message that high-value health care and outcomes are a priority. Meanwhile, clinics across the state continue to meet the challenge of delivering optimal, high-value care to their patients.”

To be eligible for Minnesota Bridges to Excellence and Quality Incentive Payment System rewards, clinics must have a certain percentage of patients at optimal levels of care or increase their percentage over the previous year. Clinic-level scores for diabetes, vascular disease and depression used by the programs are publicly reported by Minnesota Community Measurement.

Individual clinics may qualify for a reward in more than one condition. Meeting the **achievement** goal is the highest level of recognition in the program. Of the rewarded clinics in 2016: 14 are being recognized for achieving optimal diabetes care, 30 for achieving optimal vascular care, and 70 for achieving optimal depression care based on depression remission at six months.

In addition, 89 clinics are being recognized for meeting the **improvement** goal in optimal diabetes care; 119 for improvement in optimal vascular care; and 39 for improvement in depression remission at six months.

This year, five Minnesota clinics were recognized for meeting the program’s optimal care achievement goals in all three conditions:

- HealthPartners – Arden Hills
- Entira Family Clinics – White Bear Lake - Bellaire
- Entira Family Clinics – Shoreview
- Park Nicollet – Carlson
- Park Nicollet – Golden Valley

Financial rewards are made possible by the Minnesota Bridges to Excellence Champions of Change, a group of organizations that sponsor the pay-for-performance programs. Champions include Best Buy, Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative, State of Minnesota-State Employee Group Insurance Plan, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the University of Minnesota, U.S. Bank, and Wells Fargo. These organizations provide health care coverage to more than one million people in the state.

To learn more about Minnesota Bridges to Excellence and the July 27, 2016 clinic recognition event, visit <http://mnhealthactiongroup.org>.

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About the Minnesota Health Action Group

The Minnesota Health Action Group is a coalition of public and private purchasers whose sole purpose is to represent the collective voice of those who write the checks for health care in Minnesota. Action Group members collaborate with community stakeholders to drive innovations that support high-quality health care, create engaged consumers, and ensure the economic vitality of all Minnesota communities. Based in Bloomington, Minn., the Minnesota Health Action Group was formed in 1988 as the Buyers Health Care Action Group. To learn more, visit www.mnhealthactiongroup.org. Follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter: @actiongroupmn.