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**For Immediate Release**

**California Quality Collaborative Wins First-Ever Innovators Award  
from California Department of Managed Health Care**

(SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.) December 1, 2009 – California Quality Collaborative (CQC) has received the Right Care Innovators Award granted by the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) for the first time for their work with provider groups to improve patient outcomes. CQC is a statewide collaboration of purchasers, health plans and physician groups accelerating the adoption of delivery system improvements. It is administered by the Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH), a business coalition based in San Francisco.

The California HMO regulatory agency honored CQC for the Inland Quality Collaborative, a two year effort where more than 25 public and private physician organizations and health plans in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, some of them competitors, come together and exchange best practices to improve outcomes for patients with chronic illness. “This has been a place to put the business of health aside to share our best thinking on what’s worked to improve clinical outcomes for our patients,” said Howard Saner, MD, CEO, Riverside Physicians Network and Co-Chair of the collaborative.

“This award recognizes the commitment of key medical leaders to provide the right care at the right time,” said Cindy Ehnes, Director of the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC). “It epitomizes the type of collaboration we are trying to replicate statewide to improve the quality of health care.”

In 2007, the DMHC launched the Right Care Initiative (RCI), a public-private quality improvement effort. The goal of the RCI is to provide leadership among health plans and medical groups to meet the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile goal in HEDIS (Health Information and Effectiveness Data Set) measures and rank among the best in the country by 2011 in three key areas: diabetes care, cardiovascular disease, and reduction of hospital-acquired infections.

The Inland Quality Collaborative, started in April 2007, brings together physician groups, public clinics and hospitals, health plans and community agencies to share best practices. Quarterly meetings focus on patient self-management support, patient tracking systems and service protocols to make sure residents receive all recommended care for their diabetes or their heart condition. “CQC supports a learning environment where plans and provider groups come together as partners in care rather than competitors,” noted program director Diane Stewart.

A review of clinical metrics for participating organizations, which together care for 500,000 patients, shows improved patient outcomes. For example, patients with cardiovascular disease in good control jumped by 8.1 percentage points and now surpass the regional average. Additionally, hundreds more people with diabetes are receiving recommended blood sugar monitoring; participating organizations were able to reach 83% of all patients with diabetes.

**California Quality Collaborative ([www.calquality.org](http://www.calquality.org))**

California Quality Collaborative (CQC) is a healthcare improvement organization dedicated to advancing the quality and efficiency of patient care in California. It is a statewide collaboration of purchasers, health plans and physician groups pooling resources to accelerate the adoption of system changes at the practice site and at the group level to make measurable improvement in clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction and efficiency.

**About Pacific Business Group on Health ([www.pbgh.org](http://www.pbgh.org))**

Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) and its 50 major purchaser members represent more than three million employees, retirees and their families and billions in annual health care expenditures. A non-profit established in 1989, PBGH partners with leading health plans, provider organizations, consumer groups and other stakeholders to promote higher value in health care.