



National Business  
Coalition on Health

**NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL DECEMBER 11, 2006**

## **National Business Coalition on Health Releases 2007 eValue8™ RFI**

*eValue8 aligns with the President's Executive Order on transparency and value driven health care purchasing*

**WASHINGTON – December 11, 2006** – To continue efforts to ensure consumers receive safe and efficient health care, the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH), a non-profit organization of employer-based health coalitions, has released its 2007 eValue8™ Common Request for Information (RFI). eValue8 is an annual tool used by health care purchasers to compare the quality and efficiency of America's health plans.

Used to assess plan performance, negotiate contracting provisions and collaborate on programs to improve treatment of costly chronic health conditions such as diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular disease, the annual analysis includes the participation of nearly 300 health plans nationally – covering more than one-third of all Americans with health insurance. eValue8 is also actively being used by almost 20 employer purchasing coalitions, as well as some of the largest private sector purchasers of health care in the country including General Motors, Ford Motor, Pitney Bowes, 3M, American Express and Marriott.

Each year health plans submit extensive eValue8 RFI data to compare the value of health plans' clinical quality and efficiency to the National Business Coalition on Health. NBCH coordinates the collection of eValue8 RFI data using web-based technology developed by HighRoads, Inc. The data is then used to foster the evaluation of health plans on behalf of participating coalitions and their member purchasers. The response period for health plans to provide information is December 2006 through February 2007 and the highly interactive process of response verification begins with results being announced in July 2007.

"eValue8 lets employers effectively partner with health plans using an evidence-based set of performance expectations," said Dr. Jack Mahoney, corporate medical director for Pitney Bowes. "Since employers participate in developing and updating eValue8, we know that the tool will obtain information on what matters most to us. Working with health plans who participate in eValue8 helps Pitney Bowes ensure that we offer the best health plans – in terms of quality and value – to our employees."

This year the Human Resources Policy Association (HRPA) and The Leapfrog Group have joined NBCH in encouraging health plans to respond to the eValue8 RFI.

### **eValue8 aligns with President's Executive Order**

An Employer Resource Packet was recently announced by the Department of Health and Human Services at a National Summit on Health Care Transparency. The meeting was held to focus on how the business community and the federal government, working jointly as the major purchasers of health care, can lead the way to foster health care transparency and accountability.

The primary emphasis of the Employer Resource Packet is to encourage employers to use their leverage as purchasers to direct health plans to advance the goals of the President's August 2006 Executive Order on transparency committing the federal government to four important principles of Value Based Purchasing. The principles – advancing health information technology, measuring and disclosing provider performance, providing price transparency and

taking action to promote provider and consumer incentives – have been measurement elements of eValue8 since its inception over ten years ago.

In the Resource Packet sample RFI questions are suggested that employers can direct toward plans as part of their procurement process and efforts to evaluate health plan performance. The information is aligned with the eValue8 RFI questions and addresses the issues and concerns of both private and public sector purchasers. All of the recommended RFI questions in the Resource Packet have been integrated into NBCH's eValue8™ Common RFI for 2007.

As a result of this development, NBCH will now provide health plans participating in eValue8 with a comparative summary based on the Employer Resource Packet subset of eValue8 questions.

### **Participation of national and regional HMOs and PPOs**

Key to the success of this survey is the broad participation throughout the U.S. not only of large national plans, but regional plans as well. Additionally, both HMOs and PPOs participate in the process.

“The eValue8 process is very thorough and we work closely with NBCH and our local coalition, the Greater Detroit Area Health Council, to validate the data,” said Dr. Neeraj Kanwal, vice president, medical director for Paramount Care, Inc. “By participating in eValue8 we are able to demonstrate our quality cost equation for a wide range of sectors. As a result of the feedback provided by employers, we've made investments and developed new initiatives around chronic disease management and preventive care.”

### **About eValue8**

The eValue8™ Common Request for Information (RFI) tool is a product of the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH). Through the support of NBCH member coalitions, eValue8 is maintained and modified to reflect the needs of employer health care purchasers. Content for the survey is coordinated using input from employers, coalitions and health plans and incorporates guidance from leading health care quality experts. Approximately 300 health plans respond to the annual request for information. Widespread adoption of eValue8 has been the catalyst for improved health plan performance, efficiency and innovation nationwide. For additional information visit [www.eValue8.org](http://www.eValue8.org).

### **About the National Business Coalition on Health**

NBCH is a national, non-profit, membership organization of more than 70 employer-based health care coalitions, representing over 10,000 employers across the United States. NBCH and its members are dedicated to value based purchasing of health care services through the collective action of public and private purchasers. In developing, identifying and disseminating best practices in value based purchasing strategies, NBCH seeks to accelerate the nation's progress towards safe, efficient, high quality health care. For more information, call 202-775-9300 or visit [www.nbch.org](http://www.nbch.org).

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*Editor's Note: Additional information can be found on the Employers Resource Packet at <http://www.hhs.gov/transparency/employers>.*

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