



Pacific Business Group on Health Advocates Health Reform through National Priorities Partnership

*Goals Targets Patient-Centered, Affordable Healthcare
by Reducing Disease Burden, Disparities and Waste*

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Washington, D.C. (Nov. 17, 2008) – PBGH has partnered with a diverse coalition of 28 major national organizations to unveil a broad agenda to fundamentally reform health care. In representing those who receive, pay for, deliver and evaluate healthcare, the National Priorities Partnership identified six target areas to advance world-class, patient-centered, affordable healthcare.

The Partnership's improvement agenda targets health reform in ways that will eliminate harm, eradicate disparities, reduce disease burden, and remove waste. The "National Priorities" are:

- Patient and Family Engagement, to provide patient-centered, effective care;
- Population Health, to bring greater focus on wellness and prevention;
- Safety, to improve reliability and eliminate errors wherever and whenever possible;
- Care Coordination, to provide patient-centered, high-value care;
- Palliative and End-of-Life Care, to guarantee appropriate and compassionate care for patients with advanced illnesses; and
- Overuse, to remove waste and achieve effective, affordable care.

"PBGH seeks to leverage quality information, value purchasing and performance rewards to engage consumers and providers," said David Lansky, PhD, PBGH President & CEO. "To catalyze breakthroughs in quality and system re-engineering, these elements must be aligned with a national framework that supports value. "

"We're in a vital window of opportunity to advance real healthcare change," said Peter Lee, PBGH's Executive Director for National Health Policy. "PBGH and its members are excited to engage with key stakeholders to promote performance transparency and payment reform." Moving into 2009, PBGH and the Partnership will undertake specific, measurable actions to deliver better, more affordable care.

"The key is focusing on the right places in our vast and fragmented "system" where we can achieve the greatest dividends for patients and their families. If leveraged strategically, increments of improvement can accrue into transformational change and a much higher-performing healthcare system," said Janet Corrigan, president and CEO of the nonprofit National Quality Forum, which convened the National Priorities Partnership.

Additional information may be found at <http://www.nationalprioritiespartnership.org/>.
Download the Report at <http://www.nationalprioritiespartnership.org/AboutNPP.aspx>.

National Priorities Partnership

Press Release

Page 2 of 2

The Pacific Business Group on Health is a California-based association of 50 of the nation's largest purchasers of health care focused on improving the quality and availability of affordable health care. PBGH represents public and private health care purchasers who cover more than three million retirees, employees and their families, and who are responsible for \$10 billion in annual health care expenditures. Since 1989, PBGH has promoted public reporting of data at every level of the health care system to improve performance among health care providers and to help consumers make better choices.

The 28 National Priorities Partners represent key healthcare stakeholders, including: consumer groups, employers, government, health plans, healthcare alliances, healthcare professionals, scientists, accrediting and certifying bodies, and quality alliances. The Partners are: AARP, AFL-CIO, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, The Alliance for Pediatric Quality, America's Health Insurance Plans, American Board of Medical Specialties, American Nurses Association, AQA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology, Consumers Union, Hospital Quality Alliance, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Institute of Medicine, The Joint Commission, Leapfrog Group, National Association of Community Health Centers, National Business Group on Health, National Committee for Quality Assurance, National Governors Association, National Institutes of Health, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Quality Forum, Pacific Business Group on Health, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Quality Alliance Steering Committee.