



NEWS RELEASE
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Colorado Health Centers Selected for National Medicare Demonstration *Health Centers' Health Care Home Model to Benefit Medicare Beneficiaries*

DENVER— Seven Colorado Community Health Centers (CHCs) are among the 500 CHCs across the nation to be selected to participate in the Advanced Primary Care Practice demonstration project to show how the patient-centered medical home model can improve quality of care, promote better health, and lower costs. This demonstration project is operated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in partnership with the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The three-year project will test the effectiveness of doctors and other health care professionals working in teams to coordinate and improve care for up to 195,000 Medicare patients, improve health and reduce costs.

The selected Colorado CHCs are:

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc. – Boulder and Thornton
- Denver Health Community Health Services
- High Plains Community Health Center – Lamar
- Mountain Family Health Centers – Blackhawk and Glenwood Springs
- Peak Vista Community Health Centers – 225S Union Blvd, Colorado Springs
- Plains Medical Center – Strasburg
- Sunrise Community Health - Loveland

Participating CHCs are expected to achieve Level 3 patient-center medical home recognition, help patients manage chronic conditions, and coordinate care for patients. CHCs will receive a monthly care management fee for each eligible Medicare beneficiary receiving primary care services. In return, the CHCs agree to adopt care coordination practices recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). CMS and HRSA will provide technical assistance to help CHCs achieve these goals. All of the participating Colorado CHCs are in the process of adopting the NCQA goals or already achieved Level 3 patient-centered medical home recognition as measured in prior years and are updating their standards to current-year goals.

“The selected organizations for this initiative are well established and have a long history of successful quality improvement. However, this initiative will facilitate movement along the continuum of medical home development by helping participating clinics establish goals, facilitate best practices, and set measurable progress towards becoming a patient-centered medical home,” said Jessica Sanchez, CCHN’s Quality Initiatives Director.

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To interview Ms. Sanchez or leaders of the selected CHCs , please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or maureen@cchn.org.

To view the HHS news release announcing the program, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/10/20111024a.html>. For a list of participating CHCs, go to <http://innovations.cms.gov/areas-of-focus/seamless-and-coordinated-care-models/fqhc/>.

For more information about the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), please go to <http://ncqa.org/>.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified voice for Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 500,000 of their community members - one in 10 people in Colorado - from 57 of the state's 64 counties. Without CHCs, hundreds of thousands of Colorado's low-income families and individuals would have no regular source of health care. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit www.cchn.org.

To learn more about careers at Community Health Centers, please visit www.missiondrivencareers.org.

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