

Cigna Foundation Gives North Texas Accountable Healthcare Partnership First Monetary Grant

- \$50,000 grant given to improve treatment and care for Texas patients with diabetes and congenital heart disease
- The group will promote local market care coordination and enhanced clinical performance

PHILADELPHIA - March 2, 2011 - The Cigna Foundation announced today that it has awarded the North Texas Accountable Healthcare Partnership (NTAHP) its first grant to help establish a community-wide effort to strengthen care coordination and improve quality in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.* NTAHP is comprised of leaders from all areas of the industry, including hospitals, physicians, employers of all sizes and health plans.

"We are thrilled to provide the initial grant to the North Texas Accountable Healthcare Partnership to help them strengthen how area residents receive care for diabetes and congenital heart disease," stated Gianna Jackson, executive director of the Cigna Foundation. "Local initiatives are the building blocks for improving health care as they focus on relevant community issues and develop solutions that work for doctors, hospitals, businesses and insurers in North Texas. We are pleased to jump-start this local effort."

NTAHP is working to help improve quality and value through reporting on agreed-upon evidence-based quality metrics for diabetes and congenital heart disease, redesigning care coordination services at physician offices, establishing rewards and incentives for hospitals and physicians who deliver high quality care, and creating common health plan designs that encourage patient accountability.

"The best way to improve care in North Texas is to bring all stakeholders together to work for a common solution," adds David Toomey, president and general manager for Cigna HealthCare in North Texas and a founding board member of the NTAHP. "The grant from the Cigna Foundation gives NTAHP the initial funding to build the infrastructure required to establish clinical outcomes and deliver evidence-based solutions that improve how North Texans receive care."

Additional efforts being undertaken by NTAHP include the development of a health information exchange to ensure clinical best practices are delivered at the time of care.

MEDIA CONTACT: Gwyn Dilday
Gwyn.dilday@cigna.com
818-500-6370

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