HealthCare Partners Nevada and Cigna Start Accountable Care Program to Improve Health Outcomes and Lower Costs

- Consumers benefit from improved care coordination and greater emphasis on preventive care
- Doctors are rewarded for improving patient health and lowering medical costs
- Program includes HealthCare Partners registered nurse clinical care coordinators aligned to Cigna case managers

BLOOMFIELD, Conn., and LAS VEGAS - Oct. 22, 2012 - Cigna (NYSE:CI) and doctors from HealthCare Partners Nevada have launched a collaborative accountable care initiative to expand patient access to health care, improve care coordination, and achieve the "triple aim" of improved health outcomes (quality), lower total medical costs, and increased patient satisfaction.

Collaborative accountable care is Cigna's approach to accomplishing the same population health goals as accountable care organizations, or ACOs. The program will benefit approximately 13,000 individuals covered by a Cigna health plan who receive care from among some 290 primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. HealthCare Partners' medical clinics and primary care affiliates are located throughout Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, and Pahrump.

"HealthCare Partners works every day to improve patient health, and Cigna's focus on prevention and improving health care quality makes them a strong organization for us to work with to achieve the 'triple aim,'" said Amir Bacchus, M.D., HealthCare Partners chief medical officer. "HealthCare Partners applies best practices in patient care and has continued to improve clinical quality metrics for patients seen by our employed physicians and independently affiliated physicians while lowering cost trends."

Under the program, HealthCare Partners doctors monitor and coordinate all aspects of an individual's medical care. Patients continue to go to their current physician and care team and benefit from preventive care programs and disease management programs. Patients most likely to see the immediate benefits of the program are those patients actively engaged with their care teams and those who need help managing chronic conditions, such as diabetes or heart disease.

Critical to the program's benefits is HealthCare Partners coordinated care model and a wide array of Cigna's resources. The HealthCare Partners care coordinators are aligned to a team of Cigna case managers to ensure a high degree of collaboration. The care coordinators and Cigna case managers can also refer individuals to any Cigna clinical programs available through their employee benefits plan, such as disease management programs for diabetes, heart disease and other conditions or lifestyle management programs, such as programs for tobacco cessation, weight management and stress management. Together the collaboration will reduce potential gaps in care such as patients not refilling prescription drugs or patients overdue for health screenings and immunizations.

"Our goal is to change the U.S. health care system from one that pays for the volume of care provided to one that emphasizes the quality and outcome of that care," said Gene Rapisardi, president and general manager for Cigna in Nevada. "We believe this change will lead to better care, lower costs and increased satisfaction for both patients and their doctors."

The principles of the patient-centered medical home are the foundation of Cigna's collaborative accountable care initiatives. Cigna then builds on that foundation with a strong focus on collaboration and communication with physician practices. Cigna is now engaged in 42 collaborative accountable care
initiatives in 18 states, encompassing more than 390,000 Cigna customers and more than 5,500 primary care physicians. Cigna launched its first collaborative accountable care program in 2008 and its goal is to have 100 of them in place with one million customers by the end of 2014.

About HealthCare Partners Nevada:
HealthCare Partners Nevada is a network of more than 290 primary care providers and more than 1,300 specialists. With medical clinics and specialty care affiliates throughout Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Pahrump and Boulder City; HealthCare Partners Nevada is committed to delivering the highest quality of care to all of its patients. Through its total care model, HealthCare Partners provides patient centered comprehensive primary care, specialty, and urgent care services. Founded in 1996, HealthCare Partners Nevada is an affiliate of HealthCare Partners LLC with offices in California, Florida, New Mexico, and Nevada. For more information about HealthCare Partners Nevada, please visit www.hcnv.com

About Cigna
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