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Arizona Health-e Connection receives Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative award
Collaborative network will join federal government and other partners in supporting large-scale health care transformation among clinician practices

Phoenix, AZ – Arizona Health-e Connection (AzHeC) is one of 39 health care collaborative networks selected to participate in the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative, announced today by Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. Arizona Health-e Connection will receive a one-year award of \$3.6 million with a potential award of up to \$14.6 million over four years to equip clinicians in the Arizona region with tools, information, and network support needed to improve quality of care, increase patients’ access to information, and spend health care dollars more wisely.

“Supporting doctors and other health care professionals change the way they work is critical to improving quality and spending our health care dollars more wisely,” said Secretary Burwell. “These awards will give patients more of the information they need to make informed decisions about their care and give clinicians access to information and support to improve care coordination and quality outcomes.”

“We are very pleased to receive this grant award,” said Melissa Kotrys, CEO of Arizona Health-e Connection. “We are excited about what this awards means for improving health care in Arizona by improving the information that is available to Arizona providers and their patients.”

As a Practice Transformation Network, Arizona Health-e Connection will collaborate with Mercy Care Plan and Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care to support 2,500 clinicians in expanding their quality improvement capacity, learning from one another, and achieving common goals of improved care, better health, and reduced cost. The network will provide hands-on practice transformation assistance to help participating clinicians meet the initiative’s phases of transformation and associated milestones, including clinical and operational results. This assistance will include:

- Providing dedicated coaches to help practices better manage chronic disease and offer preventive care;
- Offering real-time notification alerts for clinicians caring for high-risk patients;

- Improving screening and treatment of mental health and substance abuse across multiple care settings;
- Centralizing data reporting and providing technical assistance with quality improvement targets and mid-course corrections; and
- Promoting patient, provider and community engagement through advisory boards and community engagement in learning collaboratives.

These awards are part of a comprehensive strategy advanced by the Affordable Care Act that enables new levels of coordination, continuity, and integration of care, while transitioning volume-driven systems to value-based, patient-centered, health care services. It builds upon successful models and programs such as the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Organization Program, Partnership for Patients with Hospital Engagement Networks, and Accountable Care Organizations.

For more information on the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative, please visit:

<http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Transforming-Clinical-Practices/>

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