

Collaborative Effort Helps Shape New Regional Quality Reporting Website in PA

(November 9, 2010 HARRISBURG, PA) Aligning Forces for Quality in South Central Pennsylvania (AF4Q – South Central PA), a regional healthcare quality collaborative, has recently launched its “Hospital Community Checkup” on its website, www.aligning4healthpa.org. This effort is the result of a new partnership with the Pennsylvania Health Care Quality Alliance (PHCQA) to enhance the existing functionality and reporting scope of the AF4Q – South Central PA website. The AF4Q – South Central PA “Hospital Community Checkup” includes all of the hospital (inpatient) quality measures available on the PHCQA website, along with additional quality data in such categories as Diabetes and Stroke Care that have been extracted from the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4).

PHCQA first entered into a partnership with AF4Q – South Central PA in June 2010 to license the use of PHCQA’s reporting infrastructure to display inpatient hospital data for York and Adams County as well as to provide frequent data updates on the site. The website now allows patients and consumers to view PHCQA’s inpatient quality data alongside AF4Q – South Central PA’s comprehensive ambulatory care quality measures.

“The Hospital Quality Checkup is a significant addition to the AF4Q – South Central PA website,” noted Chris Amy, Project Director for AF4Q – South Central PA. “We feel that these measures will help our community members better understand and identify the quality of the healthcare services available within our region.” AF4Q – South Central PA was created by the Healthy York County Coalition (HYCC) in February 2007 and is dedicated to eliminating the gap between the quality of care that patients with chronic conditions currently receive and the quality of care that patients should expect to receive. It is also one of 25 community collaborations that have been designated a Chartered Value Exchange (CVE) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

The partnership with AF4Q – South Central PA also marks PHCQA’s first official alliance with a peer organization in Pennsylvania. “Bringing together organizations which share common goals on health care quality is a key component of our strategy,” noted Erik Muther, the Executive Director of PHCQA. “We feel that our work together represents an important step in aligning Pennsylvania’s health care quality improvement and reporting efforts at both the state and regional level.”

About PHCQA

The Pennsylvania Health Care Quality Alliance is a nonprofit group of health care organizations working together collaboratively to improve the quality of health care for the people of Pennsylvania. Participating organizations include The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), which represents more than 225 hospitals and health systems across the state; the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council of HAP; the Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania; the state’s four Blue plans (Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Capital BlueCross, Highmark Inc., and Independence Blue Cross); the Pennsylvania Medical Society; and state government representatives.

About Aligning Forces for Quality – South Central Pennsylvania

Aligning Forces for Quality – South Central Pennsylvania (AF4Q – South Central PA) is an initiative of Healthy York County Coalition. Since its establishment in 1994, Healthy York County Coalition (HYCC) has worked to bring together stakeholders from across the community and to unite them in health and wellness efforts. Our Aligning Forces for Quality – South Central Pennsylvania initiative created in 2007, works to improve the care that individuals with chronic disease currently receive. It also conducted the I Can! Challenge, a 12-week challenge developed to give people the direction and support for improving their health. For more information on I Can! Challenge, visit <http://www.icanchallenge.com/>, and for more details on AF4Q – South Central PA, visit www.aligning4healthpa.org.

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