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Broadlawns Signs ACO Agreement with Iowa Medicaid Program Encourages Healthy Behaviors for Iowans

(DES MOINES, Iowa) - Broadlawns Medical Center has been recognized by Iowa Medicaid as an Accountable Care Organization (ACOs) to encourage healthy behaviors and improve health outcomes for thousands of Iowans on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan.

ACOs are groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers, who have agreed to provide integrated care to patients, with the goal of achieving better health results for Iowans, as well as fostering accountability in their care. Under these agreements, health care providers assume financial risk to deliver high-quality outcomes of a defined patient population - in this case, Iowa Wellness Plan members.

“By coordinating care for Wellness Plan members, we are working to ensure that patients get the right care at the right time, with the goal of spending health care dollars more wisely and with better outcomes,” said Iowa Medicaid Enterprise Director Jennifer Vermeer. “This is another exciting step in helping Iowans complete healthy behaviors.”

With Broadlawns’ agreement effective July 1, the state will have three large ACOs working to improve the health of Iowans.

ACOs are incentivized by quality bonuses which align with the Healthy Behaviors program. Under that program, Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members’ monthly contributions are waived if they complete a risk assessment and annual physical. If the activities are completed in 2014, the monthly contributions would be waived in 2015.

“We are pleased to continue our long-term partnership with Iowa Medicaid to allow thousands of Broadlawns patients the comfort of continuing their care at our facility and by our expert physicians,” said Jody Jenner, President and CEO of Broadlawns Medical Center. “This relationship and new model for healthcare will allow us to maintain our position as a leader when it comes to providing high-quality, cost-effective integrated healthcare for Central Iowans.”

To date, more than 107,000 individuals have signed up for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. Of those enrolled in the Iowa Wellness Plan, more than 26,000 have a primary care provider affiliated with the three ACOs.

The ACOs include:

- **Broadlawns Medical Center** - a community hospital serving Polk County and Central Iowa.
- **University of Iowa Health Alliance LLC** - comprised of health systems, county hospitals, RHCs, and Federally Qualified Health Centers across Iowa and include

systems like, Genesis Health System, Mercy Health Network, and the University of Iowa Health System.

- **UnityPoint Health Partners** - comprised of UnityPoint Clinic, Trimark Physicians Group (Fort Dodge), Central Iowa Hospital Corporation (Blank Children's) and St. Luke's Health Resources (Sioux City).

For more information

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