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## VHQC Awarded Key Role in National Preventive Health Initiative

**[Richmond, VA]** – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has selected Virginia Health Quality Center (VHQC) to lead a national effort aimed at increasing rates of influenza and pneumonia vaccination, mammography and colorectal cancer screening.

As the Quality Improvement Organization Support Center (QIOSC) for Medicare's Prevention Theme, VHQC will provide the country's 53 Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) with strategies and tools for helping physician practices use electronic health records to coordinate preventive care. VHQC also will work with a group of 10 QIOs that are implementing community-based efforts to slow the progression of chronic kidney disease.

"This is an opportunity to leverage what we've learned in Virginia to improve essential care for all Medicare patients," said President and CEO Donald A. Glozer, MHA, CHE. "It also is a positive reflection on the collaborative relationships and commitment to quality that we have shared for many years with Virginia's health care professionals, providers and advocates."

In its three-year contract as Prevention QIOSC, VHQC will function as a "Leader of Excellence" working closely with national experts, developing interventions for improving patient knowledge and clinical outcomes, and helping CMS collect data to measure results.

QIOSCs are central to the success of QIOs, state-specific organizations that offer free education and technical assistance to physicians, hospitals, home health agencies and nursing homes to ensure that care is safe, effective, timely, patient-centered and equitable. CMS relies on its QIOSC contractors - one for each program priority - to provide expertise, efficiency and economies of scale to the QIO program.

VHQC has been the Virginia QIO since 1984. Headquartered in Richmond, it also provides health care assessment and improvement services to clients that include the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Commonwealth of Virginia State Corporation Commission, the states of Indiana and Washington, the Center on Aging at Virginia Commonwealth University and multiple private employers. VHQC is a three-time winner of the U.S. Senate Productivity and Quality Award for Virginia.

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