



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NYSHEALTH LAUNCHES “DIABETES CLINICAL IMPROVEMENT NETWORK” TO
IMPROVE DIABETES OUTCOMES AMONG PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS
STATEWIDE**

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*HANYS, CHCANYS, NYACP, and NYSAFP
Join Forces to Improve Care for New Yorkers with Diabetes*

September 21, 2009 (NEW YORK) – The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) announced today the launch of a Diabetes Clinical Improvement Network as part of its New York State Diabetes Campaign to reverse the diabetes epidemic. For the first time, the Healthcare Association of New York State, the Community Health Care Association of New York State, the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians, and the New York State Academy of Family Physicians—which collectively represent more than 11,000 primary care providers—join forces to improve outcomes for New Yorkers with diabetes across all types of primary care settings in New York State.

Together, these partners will assist primary care providers to improve diabetes care and demonstrate positive outcomes for their patients with diabetes. As part of the NYSHealth Campaign, these partners are focused on improving the key outcomes for people with diabetes: blood sugar, blood pressure, and LDL cholesterol. In addition, they will ensure that people with diabetes get all their screening tests and that patients who smoke get help to quit.

“More than 1.5 million New Yorkers have diabetes and too many are not getting the care they need to manage their disease and avoid serious complications,” said James R. Knickman, President and CEO of NYSHealth. “It’s a huge problem and we need all hands on deck if we are going to reverse this epidemic. That is why we have asked these associations to join together with us to solve this crisis.”

“As health care providers, we know what we need to do for our patients with diabetes,” said Dr. Neil Calman, Director of the Diabetes Campaign and President/CEO of the Institute for Family Health. “The Diabetes Clinical Improvement Network will support our efforts to achieve high standards of care for our diabetes patients, including excellent control of their blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol as well as ensuring that they have their eyes, feet, and kidneys checked on a regular schedule. That translates into saving lives, limbs, and vision, and keeping people with diabetes from going on dialysis for kidney failure.”

“This is the first time that these organizations have come together at the same table to address primary care quality,” said Elizabeth Swain, CEO of the Community Health Care Association of

New York State. “Each group brings a wealth of expertise about how to engage our providers and institutions in improving health outcomes. The combined knowledge and expertise will be invaluable as we implement this statewide strategy.”

“This project is a demonstration of the continual efforts of New York’s hospitals and health care providers to improve the treatment options, outcomes and lives of patients with diabetes,” said HANYS President Daniel Sisto. “We must continue to join forces and identify innovative and consistently administered approaches to reverse this epidemic.”

“In the past, a number of local diabetes improvement initiatives have targeted segments of primary care practice, but until now, nothing has reached the whole system,” said Linda Lambert, CAE, Executive Director of New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians. “As a Network, we’ll be able to focus on all types of primary care settings, including outpatient clinics at hospitals, community health centers, and the thousands of private practices across the State.”

“Together we have an incredible opportunity to reshape diabetes care throughout New York State,” said Vito Grasso, Executive Vice President of New York State Academy of Family Physicians. “This collaboration will serve as a model for other states across the country seeking ways to tackle diabetes and other chronic diseases.”

“Diabetes is the most rapidly growing chronic disease of our time and has become an epidemic in New York State. It is the leading cause of new blindness, kidney disease and amputation, and it contributes to heart disease and stroke,” said State Health Commissioner Richard F. Daines. “We applaud the collaborative efforts of these leading statewide associations to eliminate this devastating disease that is estimated to be growing by 5% each year. This partnership offers New York an opportunity to reverse this trend and improve the quality of care in the prevention and management of this disease.”

For more information about NYSHHealth and the work of its grantees, please visit: www.nyshealthfoundation.org. For more information about the New York State Diabetes Campaign, please visit: www.nysdiabetescampaign.org.

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The New York State Health Foundation is a private Foundation dedicated to improving the health of all New Yorkers. NYSHHealth has a three-part mission: expanding health insurance coverage, increasing access to high-quality health care services, and improving public and community health by educating New Yorkers about health issues and empowering communities to address them.

The Diabetes Care Improvement Network is part of NYSHHealth’s five-year, \$35 million New York State Diabetes Campaign. The statewide Campaign is working to improve clinical care among primary care providers; mobilize communities to help people manage and prevent diabetes in places where people live, work, and worship; and promote policies that will sustain high-quality diabetes care.