



NEWS RELEASE

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Anthem Blue Cross Rewards California Hospitals a total of more than \$3.1 million during First Round of Quality Awards

Woodland Hills, CA – April 30, 2009- One year ago Anthem Blue Cross announced the launch of its Quality-In-Sights®: Hospital Incentive Program (Q-HIPSM). Today, the health benefits company announced the first round of awards presented to sixteen of the thirty eight hospitals in the Anthem Blue Cross network, who are currently enrolled in the program. The awards total more than \$3.1 million as of April 1, 2009 and are reflected as an increase to a hospital's inpatient fixed rates.

Anthem Blue Cross has been an industry leader in linking quality performance to their provider network for reimbursement. Their first pay for performance and improvement program was introduced more than a decade ago for HMO physicians, which is now the second largest pay for performance program in the world behind only the United Kingdom's, and over 5 years ago for their PPO physicians. Anthem Blue Cross was the first California health plan to introduce a hospital pay for performance and improvement plan in 2007.

Q-HIP is incorporated into the hospital contract renewal process and assesses performance with data from the California Hospital Assessment and Reporting Taskforce (CHART), a California hospital collaborative independent from Anthem Blue Cross. A hospital can earn up to 100 points on the Q-HIP scorecard. The better the hospital performs, the greater the financial reward.

The CHART indicators used to calculate the Q-HIP scorecard are also utilized by national standard setting organizations such as The Joint Commission, the Leapfrog Group, the National Quality Forum (NQF) and other respected authorities.

Hospitals and medical centers who have consistently met the stringent quality criteria of the program on the anniversary date they enrolled are awarded financial incentives, in addition to their negotiated contract rates. The program rewards hospitals who have clearly demonstrated that they are focused on providing high quality care to their patients. The goal of quality programs such as Q-HIP is to improve performance across the provider network and minimize variations in quality.

"We are fortunate to live in a state with some of the most outstanding hospitals and medical centers in the world," said Leslie A. Margolin, plan president of Anthem Blue Cross. "I commend these hospitals who have taken the initiative to sign up for the Q-HIP program. It is a tangible example of their commitment and willingness to do all they can to provide quality care for their patients. I encourage others to take part in this exciting program dedicated to promoting quality and safety in hospitals across the state."

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*** Hospitals with a double asterisk reflect those that have reached their anniversary enrollment date and met all of the Q-HIP program criteria and are eligible to receive an adjustment reward to their inpatient fixed rates.*

**Listing of all Hospitals currently enrolled in the Q-HIP program.*

Hospital Name	City
** Desert Regional Medical Center	Palm Springs
** USC University Hospital	Los Angeles
** Twin Cities Community Hospital Inc	Templeton
** Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center	San Luis Obispo
** San Ramon Regional Medical Center	San Ramon
** Placentia Linda Hospital	Placentia
** Mendocino Coast District Hospital	Fort Bragg
** Los Alamitos Medical Center	Los Alamitos
** Loma Linda University Medical Center	Loma Linda
** Lakewood Regional Medical Center	Lakewood
** John F Kennedy Memorial Hospital	Indio
** Fountain Valley Regional Hospital And Medical Center	Fountain Valley
** Doctors Medical Center Of Modesto	Modesto
** Doctors Hospital Of Manteca	Manteca
** Community Medical Center - Fresno	Fresno
** Community Hospital Of Los Gatos	Los Gatos
* Victor Valley Community Hospital	Victorville
* USC Kenneth Norris Jr Cancer Hospital	Los Angeles
* Torrance Memorial Medical Center	Torrance
* Southwest Healthcare System-Murrieta	Murrieta
* Santa Clara Valley Medical Center	San Jose
* San Antonio Community Hospital	Upland
* Saddleback Memorial San Clemente	San Clemente
* Saddleback Memorial Laguna Hills	Laguna Hills
* Patients Hospital Of Redding	Redding
* Pacifica Hospital Of The Valley	Sun Valley
* Pacific Alliance Medical Center	Los Angeles
* Orange Coast Memorial	Fountain Valley
* Olympia Medical Center	Los Angeles
* Mission Community Hospital	Panorama City
* Long Beach Memorial	Long Beach
* Lancaster Community Hospital	Lancaster
* Kaweah Delta District Hospital	Visalia
* Healdsburg District Hospital	Healdsburg
* Corona Regional Medical Center	Corona
* Clovis Community Hospital	Clovis
* Biggs Gridley	Gridley
* Anaheim Memorial Medical Center	Anaheim