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Harvard Pilgrim awards Quality Grant funding to 16 providers for 2016

Grants focus on care coordination, integrating behavioral health, population health management and health equity

Wellesley, MA – Physician practices in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire will receive grant funding this year from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care’s Quality Grants Program. Harvard Pilgrim’s 17th annual grant program will fund 16 initiatives designed to improve care delivery and reduce costs within a variety of care delivery models. Over the past 16 years, Harvard Pilgrim has funded over 200 initiatives totaling more than \$18 million dollars.

“This year’s grants touch the issues of concern to physicians across the country,” said Dr. Michael Sherman, senior vice president and chief medical officer. “By offering these grants, we are challenging physicians in our region to improve the experience of our patients and the quality of their care. We look forward to discovering innovative best practices that will be shared throughout the region to truly raise the bar for our members,” he said.

Physician leaders from the Harvard Pilgrim provider network helped select the winning proposals. Review criteria included demonstrated need, innovation in providing care, sustainability, care coordination for complex and chronic care and behavioral health integration. For more information, visit www.harvardpilgrim.org/qualitygrants.

The following provider groups received grants from Harvard Pilgrim for initiatives designed to improve care delivery and reduce costs:

Medical Professional Services	CT	Improving patient care and collaboration with the Patient Centered Medical Home neighbor
Atrius	MA	Training clinical pharmacists to help reduce inappropriate prescribing of opioids in ambulatory care
Baycare – Valley Medical Group	MA	Diabetes community outreach worker
Boston Medical Center	MA	Patient navigation to improve access to adolescent addiction care at a safety net hospital
Cooley Dickinson PHO	MA	Heart failure management
Lowell General PHO	MA	Diabetes Patient Centered Medical Home Phase 2
Mt. Auburn Cambridge Independent Practice Association (MACIPA)	MA	Expanding a pilot in population health management to target additional chronic diseases
New England Quality Care Alliance (NEQCA)	MA	Linking adults with behavioral health support

Southcoast Physicians Group	MA	Diabetes management and the Patient Centered Medical Home: achieving health equity with community health workers
Steward Health Care Network	MA	Timely post-discharge care
InterMed	ME	Direct admissions from InterMed Urgent Care to Maine Medical Center
Maine Quality Counts	ME	Building capacity of primary care providers to implement medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder
MaineHealth ACO	ME	Improving communication across the medical neighborhood through standardization of pediatric specialist referrals
St. Mary's Regional Medical Center	ME	Creating a pathway to insure health equity
Foundation Medical Partners	NH	Integrated care in primary care practices
Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital	NH	Delivering value for emergency department super-utilizers: high-touch, high-tech care redesign

About Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

Harvard Pilgrim is a not-for-profit health services company that, along with its subsidiaries, is improving the well-being of its 2.7 million customers. Harvard Pilgrim's flagship health plans in New England provide health coverage to 1.3 million members, while another 1.4 million individuals are served through Health Plans, Inc., a subsidiary that provides integrated care management, health coaching and plan administration solutions to self-funded employers nationwide. Founded in 1969, Harvard Pilgrim has built its reputation on innovation and collaboration with a goal of lowering health care costs, improving care and enhancing the overall member experience. It is known for its excellent clinical programs, customer service, health improvement strategies and innovative tools that offer consumers greater transparency and empower them to make better decisions about their health care. Harvard Pilgrim is home to the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute, a unique collaboration with Harvard Medical School. As Harvard Medical School's Department of Population Medicine, the Institute is the only appointing department of a U.S. medical school housed within a health plan. Funded primarily through external government and private sources, it provides critical information to all levels of our health care system on issues affecting population health and health care delivery. Harvard Pilgrim is consistently among America's highest-rated health plans according to an annual ranking of the nation's best health plans by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)*.

*Harvard Pilgrim Health Care is currently rated 5 out of 5 for its private HMO/POS and PPO plans and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care of New England is currently rated 4.5 out of 5 for its private HMO/POS plans in NCQA's Private Health Insurance Plan Ratings 2015-16. NCQA's Private Health Insurance Plan Rankings, 2011-15, HMO/POS/PPO.