Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm Partner to Improve the Healthcare Quality for New England

CMS awards $53 million New England QIN-QIO contract to Healthcentric Advisors, in partnership with Qualidigm.

Providence, RI (PRWEB) July 25, 2014 -- Healthcentric Advisors, the incumbent Rhode Island Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) was recently awarded a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) contract from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The new QIN-QIO contracts, awarded to fourteen organizations across the United States, represent a revitalization of CMS’s long outstanding QIO work. In order to successfully execute the contract initiatives, Healthcentric Advisors, the prime contractor for this work, has formalized a strategic partnership with Qualidigm, the incumbent QIO for Connecticut. Together, Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm will serve as a single QIN-QIO for the six New England states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The five-year, $53 million contract, which is the third largest award in the country, will begin on August 1, 2014.

The new QIN-QIO contract awards represent the second phase of the restructuring of the QIO program, the largest federal program dedicated to healthcare quality. The previous QIO body of work will be split into two separate contract structures - one for medical case review and appeals, performed by Beneficiary Family Centered Care QIOs (BFCC-QIO), and one for quality improvement and technical assistance performed by the QIN-QIOs. The previous medical case review and appeals, responsibilities that were performed by Healthcentric Advisors, Qualidigm, Masspro (the incumbent Massachusetts QIO), and the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation (the incumbent New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont QIO), will now be performed by Annapolis-based Livanta, LLC. This separation of work is a contract requirement set forth by CMS.

“Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm have a long history of working successfully with hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, and other providers and stakeholders in our respective states. We’ve created solutions to improve patient care and population health while lowering healthcare costs,” said John Keimig, president and CEO of Healthcentric Advisors. “We look forward to bringing that same spirit of partnership and collaboration to the entire New England region. We will support and assist providers in all settings, share knowledge and best practices, and accelerate improvements in health care throughout the six-state-region.”

Through a coordinated regional approach, the Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm partnership will work with providers and communities on data-driven quality initiatives to improve the quality of care across the New England region. While overseeing work for the entire region, Healthcentric Advisors will focus its efforts in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, and Qualidigm in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

“The partnership between Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm provides the opportunity to efficiently pool resources and best practices to serve the needs of healthcare providers and Medicare beneficiaries throughout the New England region,” said Tim Elwell, president and CEO of Qualidigm. “Our collaborative regional approach invites innovation and looks to recognize the solutions that work. We aim to create a sharable, virtual repository of cutting-edge resources across New England, with a goal of creating the healthiest region in the United States.”

Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm will work across New England on strategic initiatives such as reducing healthcare associated infections, reducing readmissions and medication errors, working with nursing homes to
improve care for residents, supporting clinical practices in using interoperable health information technology to coordinate care, promoting prevention activities, reducing cardiac disease and diabetes, reducing health care disparities, and improving patient and family engagement. The partnership will also provide technical assistance for improvement in CMS value-based purchasing programs, including the physician value-based modifier program.

About Healthcentric Advisors:

Based in Providence, RI, Healthcentric Advisors is a non-profit health care quality improvement agency providing consulting, research, and education services. With a staff of approximately forty physicians, nurses, educators, analysts and other professionals, Healthcentric Advisors is a sought-after partner to national and local government agencies, foundations, insurers, health care providers, stakeholders, and educational institutions on health care quality improvement initiatives.

www.HealthcentricAdvisors.org

About Qualidigm:

Based in Wethersfield, Conn., Qualidigm's mission is to improve the quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness of healthcare through transformational change. Qualidigm provides consulting services to public and private sector clients nationwide. These services include consulting, data analysis, health information technology, patient safety, quality improvement, and utilization review. For 30 years, Qualidigm has served as a Federally-funded Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). In this capacity, Qualidigm has been charged with protecting the rights of Medicare beneficiaries and improving the safety and quality of care they receive. Qualidigm is also a Patient Safety Organization (PSO).

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