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## **Massachusetts Health Quality Partners and the Partnership for Healthcare Excellence Unite to Improve Massachusetts' Health Care**

May 17, 2011 (Boston) – The Partnership for Healthcare Excellence (the Partnership) has merged with Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP), strengthening the capacity of these two organizations to advance patient and public engagement to improve the quality of health care in Massachusetts.

Integrating the Partnership into MHQP will enable MHQP to expand its measurement, reporting and improvement agenda to better engage individuals around health care quality and value. The Partnership brings expertise in developing and disseminating clear and simple call-to-action messages that resonate with patients, their families and the general public. The ability to communicate with the public is critical to advancing MHQP's personal and public engagement strategy that includes putting actionable health care quality information in the hands of individuals when they need it most and helping them make better decisions about their care.

“MHQP's founding philosophy has been to make trusted information available to the public to better inform health care choices, and bringing the Partnership on board is a reinforcement of that commitment. We cannot make improvements to our health care system without engaging the public,” said Barbra Rabson, executive director of MHQP. “Patients and their families will be our guide to health care that is truly patient-centered.”

MHQP has been a leader in facilitating collaboration among health care stakeholders to achieve successes in performance measurement, reporting and improvement for more than 15 years. MHQP has grown to be one of the most trusted names in measurable, evidence-based quality care information and transparency in Massachusetts and in the nation. Its *Quality Insights* reports spotlight the quality of primary care across Massachusetts with comparative ratings on clinical performance and patients' experiences with their care. These reports have become the primary resource to track trends of care in Massachusetts. MHQP also addresses critical methodological questions around measuring clinical effectiveness, patient experience, and efficiency and resource utilization – areas that necessitate personal and public involvement to move forward.

Since 2008, the Partnership has dedicated itself to helping Massachusetts individuals improve the quality of their health care by engaging and informing them in advocating for quality care.

“The marriage of MHQP and the Partnership will help to bolster MHQP’s efforts to engage consumers, patients and the public in how to recognize and demand quality health care,” said Jim Conway, former chairman of the board with the Partnership, who has joined MHQP’s board of directors.

Like MHQP, the Partnership’s mission is founded in collaboration; both organizations know that quality improvement cannot happen without input from everyone who gets, gives and pays for care.

The Partnership became a subsidiary of MHQP on April 1, 2011. The Partnership will keep its name and brand for at least two years as part of the merger. Both websites are available through [www.mhqp.org](http://www.mhqp.org).

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**MHQP** is a non-profit, broad-based coalition established in 1995 that provides reliable information to help physicians improve the quality of care they provide their patients, and helps consumers take an active role in making informed decisions about their health care. Its membership includes physicians, hospitals, health plans, purchasers, patient and public advocates, government agencies and academics working together to promote improvement in the quality of health care in our community. The Partnership for Healthcare Excellence joined MHQP in April 2011 to help improve outreach and engagement of patients, consumers and the public in raising the quality of health care in Massachusetts.