West Jefferson Physician Quality Alliance and UnitedHealthcare Working Together to Improve Quality and Keep People Healthy

- *Accountable care model promotes a team approach to patient care*
- *Care providers from across specialties working together to coordinate patient care*
- *More resources committed to sharing information and identifying care opportunities for patients*

NEW ORLEANS, La.– West Jefferson Physician Quality Alliance (WJPQA) and UnitedHealthcare will launch a new accountable care program Sept. 1 to improve the quality of health care in Louisiana and enhance care coordination by promoting a team approach to patient care.

People enrolled in UnitedHealthcare employer-sponsored plans will benefit from this new accountable care organization (ACO), which will continue shifting southern Louisiana's health care system from one that focuses on the volume of care delivered to one that rewards quality and value. WJPQA will manage all aspects of patients' care, providing the right care in the right place at the right time.

WJPQA, a clinically integrated network that was created by LCMC Health, is composed of five hospitals and has approximately 720 physicians.

The new relationship comes at a time when clinical advances and new technologies are redefining how care providers and health plans work together to support patients who are becoming more engaged in managing their health and well-being. Through the accountable care program, WJPQA will provide patient care under an innovative, value-based model focused on keeping people healthy through the delivery of quality, coordinated healthcare.

Many patients – particularly those with complex or chronic illnesses – find they sometimes have to connect information from each of their doctor's visits themselves, and may receive duplicative tests or healthcare that isn't coordinated. UnitedHealthcare shares data to help map the many steps in a patient's healthcare treatment, from the clinic or pharmacy, to a hospital admission or emergency room visit.

Through this accountable care relationship, WJPQA and UnitedHealthcare will use this data together to better coordinate patients' health care. Using technology that enables sophisticated population health management, the two organizations will be able to identify clear, actionable data specific to individual patients' health needs and potential missed care opportunities – such as an annual cervical or a colorectal cancer screening.

This collaboration also improves the ability to identify patients at high risk and help them reduce emergency room visits and readmissions to the hospital, manage their chronic health conditions and take their needed medications.

"WJPQA and UnitedHealthcare's accountable care relationship will enable us to provide an enhanced level of coordinated care to more patients in our community," said Greg Feirn, CEO of LCMC Health.

"Success in health care is achieved only when we put the patient at the center of everything, and that includes increasing quality and efficiency while reducing redundancy and health care costs."

"UnitedHealthcare and WJPQA are mutually committed to improving the quality and cost of health care," said Joe Ochipinti, CEO, UnitedHealthcare of Louisiana. "By working more collaboratively with local care providers and creating a more connected health care experience, we can help improve patient care and enhance people's ability to live healthier lives."

More than 15 million people enrolled in UnitedHealthcare plans across the country have access to accountable care programs, delivered in part through more than 800 accountable care arrangements nationwide as the organization engages in deeper, more collaborative relationships with physicians and hospitals.

Care providers nationwide are showing strong interest in a shift to value-based care. UnitedHealthcare's total payments to physicians and hospitals that are tied to value-based arrangements have tripled in the last three years to more than $54 billion. By the end of 2018, UnitedHealthcare expects that figure to reach $65 billion.

For more information about UnitedHealthcare's changing relationships with care providers and how value-based programs are helping to improve quality and people's health, visit www.UHC.com/valuebasedcare and download the Value-based Care Report.

About LCMC Health
Established in 2009, LCMC Health is a Louisiana-based, not-for-profit hospital system serving the healthcare needs of the Gulf Coast region. LCMC Health currently manages Children's Hospital, Touro, New Orleans East Hospital, University Medical Center New Orleans and West Jefferson Medical Center.

About UnitedHealthcare
UnitedHealthcare is dedicated to helping people nationwide live healthier lives by simplifying the healthcare experience, meeting consumer health and wellness needs, and sustaining trusted relationships with care providers. The company offers the full spectrum of health benefit programs for individuals, employers, military service members, retirees and their families, and Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and contracts directly with more than 1 million physicians and care professionals, and 6,000 hospitals and other care facilities nationwide. UnitedHealthcare is one of the businesses of UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH), a diversified Fortune 50 health and well-being company. For more information, visit UnitedHealthcare at www.uhc.com or follow @myUHC on Twitter.

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