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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 1, 2010

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SELECTS
46 PRIMARY CARE PRACTICES AS PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOMES**

Providers across Massachusetts to receive coaching, resources to support transformation

BOSTON – Wednesday, December 1, 2010 – The state’s Executive Office of Health and Human Services today announced that 46 primary care medical practices across the Commonwealth have been selected to participate in a new Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative designed to promote comprehensive, coordinated, patient-centered care delivered by teams of primary care providers. The practices represent a broad range of settings - from large, urban community health centers to small, rural group practices - and serve a diverse mix of adult and pediatric patients.

The program will implement and evaluate the patient-centered medical home model as a means of achieving accessible, high quality primary care for all patients, including persons with disabilities. Through this program, the Commonwealth will aim to attract and retain primary care clinicians into practice in Massachusetts by increasing resources available to practices and improving their quality of work life. This initiative will also seek to demonstrate cost-effectiveness in order to justify and support the sustainability and spread of the model.

“Massachusetts is leading the nation in health care reform, and this initiative represents another step forward in our work to ensure that our residents have access to the highest quality care,” said Governor Patrick.

“At the heart of our effort to ensure access to care is a commitment to strengthening primary care and reforming how we pay for that care,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. JudyAnn Bigby. “This new initiative is one of the key building blocks in our strategic work to make all primary care practices in Massachusetts transformed into advanced patient-centered medical homes by 2015.”

“As we continue to seek cost savings in our health care system, and look toward a payment reform model that rewards value and efficiency, medical homes are a wonderful start,” said Senator Richard T. Moore, (D-Uxbridge), author of the enabling legislation. “I commend the Patrick Administration for providing this support for patient centered models, and am hopeful this lends momentum to a more systemic reform.”

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SELECTS 46 PRIMARY CARE PRACTICES AS PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOMES

In a patient-centered medical home, a primary care provider and members of his or her team coordinate all of a patient's health needs, including management of chronic conditions, visits to specialists, hospital admissions, and reminding patients when they need check-ups and tests. The medical home model supports fundamental changes in primary care service delivery, as well as payment reforms, with the goal of improving health care quality. The initiative announced today seeks to implement the model in a diverse group of practices in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this transformation in improving patient care and reducing the burden of illness.

The Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative (PCMHI) was designed by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services in consultation with a multi-payer, multi-stakeholder council of consumer, physician, nurse practitioner, hospital, insurer, state agency and other interested stakeholder representatives. The Council is co-chaired by Secretary Bigby and Dr. John Fallon, Senior Vice President and Chief Physician Executive at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

The Commonwealth received applications from 84 primary care sites interested in participating in the Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative. The 46 sites invited to join the initiative will be eligible to receive technical assistance to transform their practices over a three-year demonstration period. This will include individual, on-site coaching from a Medical Home Facilitator; assistance in establishing and maintaining patient registries; and extensive training through a Learning Collaborative.

In addition to receiving technical assistance, 32 of the sites will have the opportunity to test a model of enhanced patient-centered medical home payments to support medical home activities and services including care coordination, patient self-management support and clinical care management.

Current participating payers are: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan; CeltiCare; Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority; the Health Safety Net, administered by the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy; Fallon Community Health Plan; Group Insurance Commission; Harvard Pilgrim Health Care; Health New England; MassHealth Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan; Neighborhood Health Plan; Network Health; Senior Whole Health; Tufts Health Plan; and UniCare.

The 46 primary care practices selected for the patient-centered medical home project are:

Metro Boston

Boston Health Care for the Homeless, Boston	Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center, Waltham
Boston Medical Center, Family Medicine Center, Boston	Malden Family Medicine Center, Malden
Bowdoin Street Health Center, Dorchester	Manet Community Health Center, North Quincy
Broadway Health Center, Somerville	Neponset Health Center, Dorchester
Cambridge Family Health, Cambridge	Revere Family Health Center, Revere
Codman Square Health Center, Dorchester	South Boston Community Health Center, South Boston
Dorchester House, Dorchester	South End Associates of Fenway Health, Boston
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, East Boston	Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center, Jamaica Plain
Family Practice Group, P.C., Arlington	Tufts Medical Center, Adult Primary Care, Boston
Geiger Gibson Community Health Center, Dorchester	Union Square Family Health Center, Somerville
Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates, Medford	Whittier Street Health Center, Roxbury
Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center, Allston	

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Central Massachusetts

Barre Family Health Center, Barre
Family Health Center of Worcester, Worcester
Fitchburg Community Health Center, Fitchburg
Foley Family Practice, P.C., Athol
Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center, Worcester
Grove Medical Associates, P.C., Worcester
Greater Gardner Community Health Center, Gardner
UMass Memorial Pediatric Primary Care Associates, Worcester

Western Massachusetts

Atkinson Family Practice, Amherst
Baystate High Street Health Center, Adult Medicine, Springfield
Baystate High Street Health Center, Pediatric Medicine, Springfield
Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center, Springfield
Fairview Pediatrics, Chicopee
Hilltown Community Health Centers, Worthington
Holyoke Health Center, Holyoke
Lee Family Practice, P.C., Lee
Pediatric Associates of Hampden County, Westfield

Northeastern Massachusetts

Drum Hill Primary, LLC, Chelmsford
Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (Haverhill Street), Lawrence
Lynn Community Health Center, Lynn

Southeastern Massachusetts

Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, Brockton
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, New Bedford
Mid Upper Cape Community Health Center, Hyannis

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What participating payers are saying about the Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative...

“Through programs like the Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative, we empower change in the way care is delivered to improve quality and effectiveness of patient care.”

-- Dr. John Fallon, Chief Physician Executive, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

“The BMC HealthNet Plan is very pleased to participate in the Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative sponsored by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services. With 250,000 BMC HealthNet Plan members enrolled in either MassHealth or Commonwealth Care, we are committed to this exciting initiative, which seeks to assure that patients in Massachusetts have increased access to a Medical Home through which their care is coordinated.”

-- Dr. Stanley Hochberg, Chief Medical Officer, BMC HealthNet Plan

“CeltiCare Health Plan of Massachusetts, Inc. is excited to support the community health centers and providers within our network who are participating in the PCMHI initiative. Our focus is on providing high quality lower cost care to our members and the efforts envisioned within Medical Home initiatives align closely with that mission. Better patient outcomes through a more systematic and coordinated effort by Medical Home PCPs are in the best interest of all health care stakeholders within the Commonwealth AND CeltiCare will continue to pursue and support these and other initiatives that lead to better health and more efficient delivery of care.”

Dr. Robert LoNigro, M.S., Chief Medical Director, CeltiCare Health Plan of Massachusetts

“The Health Connector is please to collaborate with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services in implementing the Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative. This initiative is an important component of health system reform, promising better patient experience and better results than traditional care.

-- Glen Shor, Executive Director, Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority

“The Division of Health Care Finance and Policy welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative. This initiative is at the core of realigning our health care system to focus on patient centered care.”

-- David Morales, Commissioner, Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

“Primary care is critical to the health of the Commonwealth and the country. The work that will be done by the medical practices participating in this Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative will reinforce that, and will also enhance the delivery of care and improve the health of some of our most vulnerable populations. We’re proud to support this important program and excited about the clear benefits it will provide to our communities.”

-- Dr. Elizabeth C. Malko, M.Eng., FAAFP

Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Fallon Community Health Plan

“There is a reason that this Initiative is referenced as ‘Patient-Centered.’ At a time when coordination of health care and service delivery efficiency are of paramount importance, the Medical Home concept reminds us that quality results and best value for dollars invested occurs when we all keep patients’ needs at the center of our efforts. The Group Insurance Commission is pleased to be an active partner in support of the PCMHI and we look forward to its further development and expansion across the Commonwealth.”

-- Kathy Glynn, Director of Policy & Program Management, Group Insurance Commission

“Health New England has worked hard to develop patient centered medical homes in our network. We applaud the state’s leadership to advance primary care practice transformation which we agree will support meeting the so-called “triple aim” to manage the cost of care, improve the patient experience with care and address the needs of population health. We are pleased that HNE can support several deserving practices in Western Massachusetts in this endeavor.”

-- Dr. Thomas H. Ebert, Chief Medical Officer, Health New England

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***What participating payers are saying about the Patient-Centered Medical Homes Initiative...
(cont'd)***

“MassHealth is committed to innovative approaches to delivering high-quality care. The Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative will strengthen the primary care services that are so vital to the health of our members and foundational to a strong health care system overall.”

-- Terry Dougherty, Director, MassHealth

“Neighborhood Health Plan is pleased to support the Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative. All of our members - Medicaid, Commonwealth Care, Commonwealth Choice and Commercial - will be eligible to participate if they receive their primary care from one of the practices selected to be part of the pilot. We believe these community health centers and other medical groups will elevate their care coordination activities for complex patients, thereby improving the quality and cost effectiveness of the care our members receive.”

-- Dr. Paul Mendis, Chief Medical Officer, Neighborhood Health Plan

“Network Health is proud and excited to be part of the Commonwealth’s Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative. Network Health exists to provide access to high-quality care for underserved communities, and we strive to improve health care quality and cost in everything we do. The PCMH Initiative aligns with our strategy to excel in quality and cost, and we believe the patient-centered medical home model has potential to dramatically improve patient care, experience, and health outcomes.”

-- Christina Severin, MPH, President, Network Health

“Senior Whole Health applauds EOHHS in promoting ‘medical homes’ for residents of the Commonwealth. As a Senior Care Options program, Senior Whole Health has witnessed the benefits of care coordination and collaboration with physicians and other providers in serving elders in the community. As a participant in this effort, Senior Whole Health anticipates similar positive outcomes for patients served through this medical home initiative.”

-- Dr. Kathleen Bennett, Chief Medical Officer, Senior Whole Health

“We know that coordinated care leads to improvement in quality care and often better outcomes, as well as increased satisfaction for patients and medical professionals. Moreover, a Patient-Centered Medical Home model reduces the opportunity for redundancy and waste, and supports primary care professionals as central to a patient's care management. This is a welcome shift in approach, and will contribute to a societal shift toward incorporating prevention and wellness as personal health goals.”

-- Dr. Paul Kasuba, Chief Medical Officer, Tufts Health Plan

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