



Camden Coalition
of Healthcare Providers

ACO Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers named first Medicaid Accountable Care Organization (ACO) in New Jersey Community-based non-profit membership organization will use shared data to improve the delivery of health care in Camden for 37,000 people.

CAMDEN, NJ — The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers (Camden Coalition) has been approved by the state of New Jersey to form a Medicaid ACO, Valerie Harr, director of the state's Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, announced today. The ACO is approved under legislation signed in 2011 that established a three-year Medicaid demonstration project and will provide high-quality, coordinated health care to nearly 37,000 beneficiaries in one of New Jersey's most economically challenged cities.

Community-based Medicaid ACOs bring together primary care and behavioral health providers, hospitals, city residents, and other organizations to improve health outcomes, quality, and access to care through regional collaboration, while helping to slow health care cost growth. Under New Jersey's legislation, providers serving Medicaid beneficiaries — children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities — can collaborate under the ACO umbrella. Participating providers are collectively responsible for the care of an enrolled population, and share in any savings associated with improvements in the quality and efficiency of the care they provide. Savings are reinvested to improve and enhance health care services in the covered area, guided by the priorities and preferences of the community and front-line health care providers.

“We believe that a high-quality, community-based ACO will deliver more effective, coordinated, and compassionate care to Camden's most vulnerable residents,” said Dr. Jeffrey Brenner, Executive Director and founder of the Camden Coalition. “For the last decade the Coalition has been a community organizer of health care providers, working in one of the most fragmented and challenging urban health care environments in the country. We've developed a



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strong network of great partners and compiled multiple years of patient-level data that will be a roadmap for the work ahead. The Camden Coalition Accountable Care Organization will show the benefits of rewarding our partners for working together to deliver the best possible care to the people of Camden.”

The Camden Coalition ACO will include the three largest hospitals in Camden County — operated by Cooper University Health Care, Lourdes Health System, and Virtua — as well as primary care providers, behavioral health organizations, resident and community organizations, and Horizon NJ Health and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, New Jersey’s largest providers of Medicaid insurance.

“We’re honored to be part of the Coalition and the new Accountable Care Organization,” said Kim Barnes, Vice President of Lourdes Health System and Board Chair of the Coalition. “We believe this project will be a model for innovative and effective delivery of care to underserved populations across the country. It is a major cultural shift for health care in New Jersey and we’re proud to be leading the way.”

“As a health care provider in Camden for over 127 years and a founding member of the Coalition, Cooper is proud to join our partners in celebrating this milestone,” said Louis Bezich, Senior Vice President, Strategic Alliance at Cooper and Camden Coalition Board member. “The ACO will provide the vehicle to insure that all Camden residents get the care they need when they need it.”

“Virtua congratulates Dr. Jeffrey Brenner and the Camden Coalition for this outstanding milestone,” said Stephen Kolesk, M.D., Virtua Senior Vice President and Camden Coalition Board member. “Virtua’s collaboration with the Coalition for this community-based Medicaid ACO program is another sign of Virtua’s ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the residents of the City of Camden.”

Participating Camden Coalition Accountable Care Organization Members

Hospitals:

- Cooper University Health Care
- Lourdes Health System
- Virtua

Primary Care Providers

- Dr. Ramon Acosta
- CAMCare Health Corporation
- Cooper Family Medicine
- Cooper General Pediatrics



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- Cooper Internal Medicine
- Fairview Village Family Practice
- Virtua Kyle Will Family Health Center
- Osborne Family Health Center
- Project H.O.P.E.
- Reliance Medical Group
- St. Luke's Catholic Medical Services

Behavioral Health Organizations

- Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey
- South Jersey Behavioral Health Resources
- Twin Oaks Community Services
- Volunteers of America Delaware Valley

Partnering Organizations

- Abigail House for Nursing and Rehabilitation
- Bayada Home Healthcare
- Camden Area Health Education Center
- Fair Share Northgate II

Resident/Community Organizations

- AARP New Jersey
- Camden Churches Organized for People

Health Plans

- Horizon NJ Health
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan NJ

ABOUT THE CAMDEN COALITION OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers (Camden Coalition) is a citywide coalition of over 25 hospitals, primary care providers and community organizations working together to deliver better health care to vulnerable citizens in Camden, NJ. Founded by Dr. Jeffrey Brenner in 2002, the Coalition knits together a fragmented health care system for patients with complex needs and repeated, ineffective and expensive hospitalizations, using smart data and holistic, multi-disciplinary team care. We believe if we can deliver better care at lower cost here in Camden, it can be done for everyone, everywhere in America. In 2013, Dr. Brenner was honored with the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship for his work.



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To request photos, interviews and more information, please contact:
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