

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**California Association of Physician Groups Commend
Innovative Alliance Formed to Carry Out Healthcare Reform**
*Monarch HealthCare, HealthCare Partners and Anthem Blue Cross chosen
for national healthcare pilot program to improve quality and lower costs*

Los Angeles, CA – The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) announced today that two of their leading physician-governed medical groups have been selected to participate in a new and innovative, nationally-recognized healthcare model that rewards providers for improving patient outcomes, while slowing cost growth.

Monarch HealthCare, an Irvine, California-based medical group and Independent Physician Association (IPA) and HealthCare Partners, a Torrance, California-based medical group and IPA will collaborate with Anthem Blue Cross in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) pilot project led by the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at Brookings and The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice. The selection of the two California organizations advances a nationwide demonstration project already underway in three other communities. The pilot project expects to produce a successful model that will be replicable throughout the country.

“For more than 20 years, CAPG members have been at the forefront of the Accountable Care Organization movement providing quality, affordable and coordinated care to more than 15 million Californians. We know through our own successes that making ACOs a permanent part of our healthcare system is the only way to expand access to all Americans,” said CAPG president and CEO, Donald Crane.” This unique partnership illustrates the commitment by physician groups to explore innovative delivery model options that will keep people healthy and drive costs down.”

As partners in the pilot program, the physician groups and the insurer are redesigning their systems of care to provide affordable, efficient, and coordinated care through a network of physicians who use the latest health information technology to track patient treatments and share intelligence to guide patient care decisions. Because the ACO model introduces appropriate incentives for physicians to collaborate, be thoughtful in the provision of care, and meet or exceed quality benchmarks, it holds great promise for enhancing patient outcomes and increasing efficiency.

“This is a very exciting development for anyone who supports innovative ideas designed to improve healthcare delivery in the communities we serve. Monarch has always been a leader in this regard and is delighted to have been selected as a pilot site for this project,” said Jay Cohen, M.D., president and chairman of the board at Monarch HealthCare.

“The ACO pilot is a win for everyone – for physicians providing superior clinical care for their patients, for patients receiving that care, and for all of us who want to wring unnecessary costs out of the healthcare system,” said Robert J. Margolis, M.D., HealthCare Partners chairman and CEO.

California Association of Physician Groups

The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) represents groups that employ or contract with nearly 60,000 California doctors and provide care to 15 million Californians. CAPG is committed to improving health care for Californians and supports a progressive and organized system of health care delivery which focuses on coordinated treatment plans and comprehensive coverage, including the most current preventive services and exams. This allows physicians to focus on illness prevention and proactive management of patients in order to maintain their optimum level of health. www.capg.org.

Monarch HealthCare is an Independent Practice Association (“IPA”) and is the largest physician organization in Orange County. Formed in 1994, Monarch HealthCare is contracted with more than 2,500 independent, private-practice physicians who provide health care for approximately 170,000 Orange County residents. Recognized by health plans and business groups for providing high quality care and excellent service, Monarch HealthCare is owned and operated by physicians who have demonstrated their commitment to advancing medical excellence and exemplifying the “patient-first” philosophy of healthcare in their communities. For more information, please visit www.monarchhealthcare.com.

HealthCare Partners Affiliates Medical Group (HCPAMG) has been named a top-performer six years in a row by the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) for clinical excellence, patient satisfaction, and use of information technology in support of patient care. With more than 1,200 employed and affiliated primary care physicians and more than 3,000 employed and contracted specialists, HealthCare Partners cares for patients in Los Angeles, Long Beach, South Bay, Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley area, the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys, and Orange County. Nationally, HealthCare Partners operates HCPAMG (California), JSA Healthcare Corporation (Florida), HealthCare Partners of Nevada, The Camden Group (national consulting firm), and the HealthCare Partners Institute. For more information, please visit www.healthcarepartners.com

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The Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at Brookings is committed to producing innovative solutions that will drive reform of our nation’s health care system. The Center’s mission is to develop data-driven, practical policy solutions that promote broad access to high-quality, affordable, and innovative care in the United States. The Center conducts research, makes policy recommendations, and facilitates the development of new consensus around key issues and provides technical support to implement and evaluate new solutions in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders.

The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice is a dynamic force within Dartmouth College, dedicated to improving health care through education, research, policy reform, leadership improvement and communication with patients and the public.

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