



News Release

For Immediate Release

November 11, 2020

Contact:

John Grese, Bridges Health Partners

(724) 300-8104

john.grese@bridgeshealthpartners.org

Bridges Health Partners Improves Quality of Patient Care While Saving Medicare Nearly \$20 Million In Its First Two Years

Pittsburgh, PA – For the second consecutive year, Bridges Health Partners (Bridges) improved quality of patient care for over 25,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Western Pennsylvania while saving Medicare nearly \$20 million in total medical expenses for 2018 and 2019, according to recently released performance data from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that administers Medicare. Bridges, a joint venture between Butler Health System, Excelsior Health, St. Clair Hospital, and Washington Health System, along with nearly 1,100 physicians, achieved these results through its performance in the Medicare Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Shared Savings Program.

In 2019, Bridges earned an overall quality score of 92 percent on performance measures including preventive and wellness screenings, patient satisfaction and prevention of avoidable hospitalizations. In accordance with Medicare's formula, Bridges received nearly \$5 million for its 2019 performance that will allow it to continue reinvesting in redesign of patient care delivery.

"Once again, Bridges achieved the lowest cost per patient in the region while scoring extremely high in quality, providing an excellent patient experience while also saving our Medicare beneficiaries money. Clearly, our physician and clinician partners have embraced the transformational change necessary to deliver better value, as we have seen a similar impact on our other patient populations," said Tom Boggs, President.

Dr. Rob Zimmerman, Chief Medical Officer, added, "Combining strong collaboration among our partners with the technology of population health tools and care redesign, Bridges Health Partners delivers a patient-centered approach to meet our mission of high quality, high value health care. By leveraging Annual Wellness Visits for screening and preventive care, directed patient outreach, managing hospital to home transitions, and coordinating care locally, Bridges has enhanced our patients' engagement in their healthcare and improved their outcomes."

The Medicare ACO Shared Savings Program is the largest value-based payment model in the country and a critical tool in moving the health system toward better value. When providers work together through a Medicare Shared Savings ACO to focus on patients and invest in care coordination, information technology, and other care improvements, they can increase quality and reduce costs. A [fact sheet](#), with more information about MSSP ACOs, is available online, along with other resources — [What is an ACO?](#) — and the [ABCs of ACOs](#).

#####

About Bridges Health Partners

Four independent non-profit health systems in the Pittsburgh metropolitan markets and surrounding communities, including Butler Health System, Excelsa Health, St. Clair Hospital, and Washington Health System, are the founding members of Bridges Health Partners. Each founding member, along with Bridges participating physicians, are committed to transforming how healthcare services are delivered by implementing an integrated, regional network of care. The Bridges Health Partners network comprises eight hospital campuses with over 1,450 licensed beds, nearly 1,100 affiliated physicians with a network of primary care and specialty practice sites, ambulatory surgery centers, urgent care clinics, imaging and diagnostic centers, skilled nursing, home health, and hospice care. To learn more about Bridges Health Partners, visit www.bridgeshealthpartners.org.