



December 19, 2011

Contact: Laura Sinnard, Director, Public Relations and Communications,
Iowa Health System, sinnardL@ihs.org (515) 241-3600

Shannon McQuillen, Director, Marketing and Public Relations,
Trinity Regional Medical Center, mcquillsl@ihs.org (515) 574-6511

**Iowa Health System Affiliates to participate as Medicare Pioneer Accountable Care
Organization**
New Model Designed to Offer Better Care to Beneficiaries Through Partnership with Medicare

DES MOINES, IOWA –Iowa Health System affiliates Trimark Physicians Group and Trinity Regional Medical Center of Fort Dodge announced today they have been selected to participate in the Pioneer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Model, a transformative new initiative sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center. Thirty-two Medicare Pioneer ACOs will be established nationwide. Trimark Physicians Group and Trinity Regional Medical Center were chosen in a competitive selection process and are the only participating physician group and hospital in Iowa.

Through the Pioneer ACO Model, Trimark and Trinity will work with CMS to provide Medicare beneficiaries with higher quality care, while reducing growth in Medicare expenditures through enhanced care coordination.

“Forming an Accountable Care Organization is a logical step for both Trimark and Trinity,” says Sue Thompson, Trinity Health Systems, President and CEO. “Both the doctors and the hospital have long been integrated into a cohesive health care team. The ACO will expand upon that integration, maximizing patient health information to focus on better short-term and long-term outcomes for Medicare members.”

Bill Leaver, President and CEO for Iowa Health System (IHS), says the Fort Dodge-based ACO could serve as a model for expanding patient-centered, coordinated care across the nation for Medicare patients over the next five years.

“The traditional fee-for-service system for delivering care needs to be redesigned to one that rewards providers on the basis of patient outcomes,” Leaver says. “We prefer to be part of the solution and coordinated care is one way to do that.”

The Pioneer ACO Model is designed to encourage the development of new care coordination delivery models, in which groups of doctors and other health care providers work together to provide high quality care for their patients. As one team in a diverse group of leading-edge health care organizations from around the country, Trimark and Trinity were chosen specifically by the Innovation Center to test

-more -

the effectiveness of a new model of care delivery to help organizations make a rapid transition to higher quality care at a lower cost to Medicare. “These Pioneer ACOs represent our nation’s leaders in health system innovation, providing highly coordinated care for patients at lower costs,” said Marilyn Tavenner, Acting Administrator of CMS. “Trimark and Trinity have demonstrated significant experience in providing high quality, coordinated care, and we are excited to partner with them,” Tavenner said.

Under the Pioneer ACO Model, CMS will provide incentives for participating health care providers who form an organization to coordinate care for patients. Providers who band together through this model will be required to meet quality standards based upon, among other measures, patient outcomes and care coordination among the provider team.

CMS will use robust quality measures and other criteria to reward ACOs for providing beneficiaries with a positive patient experience and better health outcomes, while also rewarding Trimark and Trinity for reducing growth in Medicare expenditures for the same patient population.

Unlike a managed care plan, Medicare beneficiaries will *not* be locked into a restricted panel of providers. The Pioneer ACO Model is not a health plan or managed care plan. Under the Pioneer ACO Model, beneficiaries seeing doctors participating in an ACO will maintain the ability to see any doctor or health care provider, as well as the full benefits associated with traditional Medicare.

Today’s announcement was the culmination of a competitive selection process that began in May with the national release of a Request for Applications from CMS. Trimark and Trinity were selected based on their demonstrated capabilities to offer high quality coordinated care.

The Pioneer ACO Model is one of a number of initiatives developed by the new Innovation Center. The Innovation Center was created by the Affordable Care Act to test new models of health care delivery and payment.

Helpful Links

For more information about the Pioneer ACO Model, visit the Pioneer ACO website at www.innovations.cms.gov/areas-of-focus/seamless-and-coordinated-care-models/pioneer-aco/.

The Pioneer ACO Model is one of several initiatives underway at CMS designed to encourage the formation of ACOs. For more information, visit www.cms.gov/aco. For more information about the Innovation Center, visit innovations.cms.gov.

###

About Iowa Health System:

IHS has relationships with 26 hospitals in metropolitan and rural communities and more than 195 physician clinics. With annual revenues of \$2.7 billion, IHS entities provide patient care in Illinois and Iowa and employ greater than 22,000 employees.

The eight senior affiliates of IHS are: Iowa Health – Des Moines; Allen Health Systems, Inc. (Waterloo, Iowa); Finley Tri-States Health Group, Inc. (Dubuque, Iowa); St. Luke’s Health System, Inc. (Sioux City, Iowa); St. Luke’s Healthcare (Cedar Rapids, Iowa); Trinity Health Systems, Inc. (Fort Dodge, Iowa); Trinity Regional Health System (Rock Island, Illinois); and Methodist Health Services Corporation (Peoria, Illinois).

- more -

Over the years, IHS hospitals have received national recognition for quality, service and patient satisfaction, including the Magnet Award for Nursing Excellence, Top 100 Heart Hospital designation, HealthGrades Patient Safety Award, Gold Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence and more. IHS entities also include four accredited colleges of nursing and/or allied health fields and approximately 800 employed physicians.

About Trinity Regional Medical Center

Trinity Regional Medical Center is a licensed 200 bed, non-profit hospital, serving Fort Dodge and the surrounding communities. As a designated regional referral center, Trinity serves an eight-county area with a population of approximately 120,000. Trinity Regional Medical Center is accredited by Det Norske Veritas (DNV). Offering a wide range of primary and secondary care services, Trinity Regional Medical Center employs over 980 health care professionals, technicians and employees and boasts a medical staff of 110 physicians. www.trmc.org

About Trimark Physicians Group

Trimark Physicians Group offers a full array of primary and specialty medical services for its service region throughout northwest-central Iowa. Trimark also provides the physician component of hospital and nursing home services for common medical problems. In most of Trimark's service area, this is complemented by Trinity Health Systems which provides acute care inpatient services through direct ownership of Trinity Regional Medical Center, and through management contracts with four critical access hospitals, which have 25 to 50 beds.

Trimark Physicians Group offers several specialty clinics as well in the following areas: Allergy, Dermatology, Family Practice, Gastroenterology, Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics, Podiatry, Pulmonology, General and Vascular Surgery, and Radiology including Interventional Radiology. www.trimark.org