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Collaboration Aims to Improve Patient Safety, Hospital Quality

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Virginia Expands Contract with VHI to Recognize Hospitals for Increasing Quality of Care

RICHMOND, VA— August 8, 2011—**Virginia Health Information (VHI)** and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Virginia today announced an extension of Anthem's program to improve quality of care among hospitals. The award-winning Anthem program, Quality-In-Sights® Hospital Incentive Program (Q-HIP®), operates in Virginia and 13 other states.

"We are appreciative of **Virginia Health Information's** work," said Lindsey Gilbert, regional vice president of enterprise performance management with Anthem. "This represents a continuation of eight years of collaborative efforts between Anthem and **VHI** to improve health care delivery by hospitals."

VHI serves as a Virginia patient-safety organization that evaluates hospitals based on the information they provide using nationally endorsed standards.

"This is a pay-for-performance system," said **VHI** Executive Director Michael Lundberg. "The better the care, the better the ranking. The result is more appropriate compensation for hospitals in terms of reimbursements based on value, not volume. The best part is that it's a program where providers and insurers team together and patients are the ultimate winners."

Through the Q-HIP® program, hospitals and nurses are supported by an interactive web tool developed by **VHI** to exchange information on performance criteria, hospital rates and overall performance.

"Q-HIP® utilizes a great system because it's electronic and completely paperless," said Vicki Jolena, a registered nurse and validation specialist with **VHI**. "We are able to give hospitals timely feedback and they can see the results immediately."

Virginia Health Information (VHI) is a nonprofit organization that businesses, consumers, the Commonwealth of Virginia and health insurance companies come to for health information. For those without Internet access call 1-877-VHI-INFO to receive information by mail. VHI publishes reports and consumer guides on health insurance, hospitals, HMOs, nursing facilities, physicians and other topics at www.vhi.org.

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