**COLORADO PROVIDERS LEAD THE TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TOWARD PATIENT-CENTERED VALUES**

DENVER -- September 2017 -- Colorado healthcare providers are leading healthcare transformation efforts to ensure patient-centered care that leads to better health outcomes, reduce and avoid healthcare costs and improve provider satisfaction. And they’re doing it voluntarily.

The Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPi) in Colorado includes primary care, specialty and behavioral health providers, who are capitalizing on this unique opportunity to influence healthcare transformation efforts on a national scale. The four-year, governor’s office initiative is funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

“Initiatives like TCPi will help Colorado become the healthiest state in the nation,” says Donna Lynne, Lt. Governor and Chief Operating Officer. “We recognize the need to have clinicians at the table to design effective, sustainable healthcare reform, and TCPi is one of the few programs that includes specialists as well as primary care providers and mental health centers.”

With the nearly 2,000 providers who have signed up for this federally-funded transformation program, Colorado has a high percentage of specialists, and is pursuing innovative approaches to ensure effective referrals, prepare clinicians for success with value-based payments, manage opioid prescriptions, improve smoking cessation efforts and more.

“Colorado is a leader in practice transformation efforts that will benefit providers, health plans and patients,” explains Barbara Martin, RN, MSN, MPH, director of the Colorado State Innovation Model, which oversees TCPi. “The time that providers invest in reviewing processes, referrals and effective use of staffing helps ensure delivery of the right type of care at the right time from the right provider, which improves health outcomes and helps reduce or avoid healthcare costs. TCPi puts clinicians in the driver’s seat when it comes to healthcare reform.”

“If we’re going to move the needle in health care reform, we need to take a wider view and include specialists as well as primary care clinicians,” explains Allyson Gottsman, program manager for the Colorado Health Extension System, a collaborative of 20 practice transformation organizations for TCPi and other practice innovation efforts. “This should include the whole continuum, which is why we have surgical specialties, medical specialties, and behavioral healthcare in TCPi.”

Clinicians cite three key reasons for joining TCPi:

## Health insurance companies are moving away from traditional fee-for-service reimbursement contracts with providers and shifting to value-based reimbursement that rewards better health outcomes.

## Working with practice coaches helps clinicians evaluate their processes to ensure that the care delivered is consistent, patient-centered and includes prescription management, behavioral counseling and other aspects of care as appropriate.

## Practices can stabilize and improve their finances by preparing for changing payment models, which reward quality healthcare and in some cases, penalize those that don’t manage the patient’s overall needs adequately.

TCPi is free to providers, and connects them with practice coaches, who are trained in practice redesign and team building. One key to the program is helping healthcare providers collect, use and report clinical quality data to assess their care approaches and negotiate different types of contracts with health plans.

“TCPi clinicians have made a commitment to excellence in providing patient-centered, evidence-based, high-quality care,” Martin says. “We want patients to know their providers are working hard to transform the health care system for their benefit.”

To learn more about TCPi in Colorado, visit [www.colorado.gov/pacific/healthinnovation/TCPI](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/healthinnovation/TCPI).

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*Transforming Clinical Practices Initiative (TCPi) is a free, federally funded support network that is designed to help healthcare providers navigate compensation changes coming as a result of the Medicare Quality Payment Program (also known as MACRA) and commercial insurance companies moving to value-based payment models. TCPi is one of many transformation initiatives in Colorado.*