

# Primary Care Home Initiative

## **Purpose:**

The Joint Commission recognizes the emerging evidence related to the benefits of increased access to health care, continuity of care, and patient-centered care. The Joint Commission will be developing a Primary Care Home Initiative that includes standards and survey processes that provide value-added enhancements to our Ambulatory Health Care accreditation product.

There is opportunity for ambulatory care organizations to receive both accreditation and designation as a Primary Care Home. This will enable the improvements in quality of care and patient safety achieved through accreditation, to be combined with increased reimbursement based on the preliminary results of numerous demonstration projects.

## **Approach:**

A Primary Care Home Initiative work group will guide the development of any future changes to ambulatory accreditation standards/elements of performance, the on-site survey process, and the “designation” process. This work group will include input from:

- national and state organizations representing primary care providers,
- community-based and other primary care organizations,
- trade associations representing physicians, dentists, advanced practice nurses and physician assistants,
- third-party payors,
- other interested stakeholders.

This will also include working with third party payors (e.g., commercial insurance companies), and Federal and state funders (e.g. Medicare and Medicaid) to identify those evidence-based services provided by any primary care licensed independent practitioners that contribute to increased patient safety, improved quality of care, and lower health care related costs.

## **Timetable:**

Implementation is estimated for mid-2011, based on initiative development and field testing in 2010, and release of Primary Care Home designation requirements in early 2011.

### **Contact for Questions:**

**Lon Berkeley**, Project Director, CHC Accreditation

**Phone:** 630-792-5787

**Email:** [lberkeley@jointcommission.org](mailto:lberkeley@jointcommission.org)