For Immediate Release

LOUISIANA HEALTH CARE QUALITY FORUM PARTNERS IN NATIONAL HEALTH IT WEEK

BATON ROUGE, LA – (Oct. 6, 2015) – For the third consecutive year, the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum is partnering with hundreds of organizations across the U.S. to celebrate National Health Information Technology (NHIT) Week, Oct. 5-9, 2015, with the theme: One Voice, One Vision: Transforming Health and Care.

The Quality Forum, a private, not-for-profit organization, has worked since 2007 to improve health care delivery and health outcomes for the residents of Louisiana through advancements in health information technology (IT). It serves as the State-Designated Entity for the support of health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals in the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs). In addition, the Quality Forum leads the implementation of the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE), a secure, confidential network through which authorized health care providers and organizations can electronically access and share health-related information for the purpose of improving patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes.

To date, more than 2,000 health care providers across 37 specialties in Louisiana have utilized the resources available through the Quality Forum to adopt EHRs. More than 240 health care providers, hospitals, school-based health centers, home health agencies and other health care companies are enrolled to participate in LaHIE. Currently, LaHIE features nearly four million unique patient records and processes more than 79 million transactions per month.

In addition, the Quality Forum, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), is leading a statewide consumer engagement campaign to provide education to Louisiana’s patients and families about health IT tools such as patient portals, EHRs and LaHIE and how these tools can be used to improve their health and health care. Louisiana is the first state in the nation to launch a statewide, direct-to-consumer health IT engagement campaign.

“We are extremely proud of the achievements and progress being made in Louisiana. These efforts are winning national recognition, but more importantly, they are yielding significant improvements in our state’s health care delivery and health outcomes,” said Cindy Munn, Quality Forum CEO. “These technologies make it easy and safe for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and others involved in our care to communicate quickly and effectively to provide coordinated care, and for us, as patients, to make better, more informed decisions about our health and health care.”
For additional information about National Health IT Week, visit www.healthitweek.org. For more information about the Quality Forum, please visit www.lhcqf.org.

About the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum
The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum is a private, not-for-profit organization, dedicated to advancing evidence-based, collaborative initiatives to improve the health of Louisiana residents. Its focus areas include quality measurement and analytics, clinical quality improvement, the patient-centered medical home/care coordination model, outreach and education, the Louisiana Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST) and health information technology (IT). With regard to health IT, the Quality Forum is the State-Designated Entity to support health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records and to lead the planning and implementation of the state’s health information exchange. For more information, visit www.lhcqf.org.

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