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Aledade Teams Up with Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum to Create Primary Care Physician-Led ACO in Louisiana

New organization will use cutting-edge technology to improve patient health, lower costs, and provide individually-tailored care.

Local doctors in Louisiana will soon have a new partner to help keep their patients healthy. Maryland-based Aledade, Inc. has announced a partnership with the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum to help independent primary care physicians in the state form and operate an Accountable Care Organization (ACO).

Aledade partners with independent doctors to create and run ACOs, networks of physicians who band together to deliver coordinated care to patients. They operate under a payment structure that rewards positive health outcomes for patients, instead of the volume of health care services delivered.

"Family physicians have a unique connection with their patients," said Dr. Farzad Mostashari, CEO and co-founder of Aledade. "They are best positioned to lead the transformation towards value-based health care, and our ACO will empower them to do so. And just like these doctors have a special relationship with their patients, The Quality Forum has a special relationships with Louisiana physicians. We're excited to work with this team, and know this partnership will benefit Louisiana's independent doctors, and their patients."

The Quality Forum is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to reshaping health care. It serves as a neutral convener, bringing providers, purchasers, payers and consumers together to drive improvements in health care quality, safety and value through initiatives focused on health information technology (IT), patient-centered care, quality, end-of-life care and outreach and education. With regard to health IT, the Quality Forum manages the state's Regional Extension Center (REC) to drive EHR adoption among Louisiana's health care providers and is the administrator of the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE).

Aledade and the Quality Forum will work with physicians in Louisiana to build a state-based Medicare ACO – the first in Louisiana led solely by independent primary care doctors. Aledade ACOs focus on delivering the highest-quality care to patients, with an emphasis on preventative care, high-value referral networks, customized technology, and unmatched analysis of patient claims and electronic health record (EHR) data to identify patients who need help before serious medical problems arise. Aledade's partnership with the Quality Forum will enable the new ACO to provide in-person support for physicians throughout the entire setup and operation of the new organization.

“Since 2007, the Quality Forum has dedicated itself to reshaping health and health care in Louisiana,” said Cindy Munn, CEO of the Quality Forum. “With an advanced health IT infrastructure in place, our organization supports the state’s transition from a volume-based health care system to one based on value and quality. With that in mind, we are excited to partner with Aledade to support our state’s health care providers, and we look forward to the opportunity to assist them in their efforts.”

Nadine Robin, Health IT Program Director for the Quality Forum, added, “Aledade’s vision of high quality, health IT-enabled and patient-centered health care delivery mirrors our own. As the state’s REC, we’ve successfully worked to drive the adoption and meaningful use of EHRs among Louisiana’s providers, and this partnership is a continuation of those efforts. We want to empower providers with the resources, tools and technology they need to improve quality and outcomes for their patients.”

Aledade will also bring a regulatory expertise to Louisiana physician practices, ensuring all participating doctors meet necessary ACO and meaningful use standards. Internally, the ACO will establish quality benchmarks and a governing board to develop and share best practices for patient outreach, engagement, and treatment.

About Aledade

Founded in 2014, Aledade is a new company with an old-fashioned goal: putting doctors back in control of health care. Aledade partners with independent, primary care physicians to provide everything the doctors need to create and run an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) – from business and practice transformation services to upfront capital and cutting-edge technology. The company is led by CEO and co-founder Dr. Farzad Mostashari, former National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and has already established successful organizations in New York, Delaware, Maryland, and Arkansas.

Aledade employs a team of health policy, regulatory, data and practice transformation experts to implement s customized solutions and continuous, on-the-ground support partners to help doctors in all types of communities across America preserve their autonomy, deliver better care to their patients, reduce overall costs, and keep independent physician practices flourishing.

For more, visit: www.apple.com.

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/education and health information technology (IT). With regard to health IT, the Quality Forum supports health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health

records and serves as the State-Designated Entity for the administration of the state's health information exchange. For more information, visit www.lhcqf.org.