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**The Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control (COSEHC™) receives
Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative award**

Collaborative network will join federal government and other partners in supporting large-scale health care transformation among clinician practices

Winston-Salem, North Carolina –The Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control, headquartered at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, is one of 39 health care collaborative networks selected to participate in the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative, announced today by Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. The Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control will receive up to \$ 15.8 million to provide technical assistance support to help equip clinicians in the Southeastern network region with tools, information, and network support needed to improve quality of care, increase patients’ access to information, and spend health care dollars more wisely.

“Supporting doctors and other health care professionals change the way they work is critical to improving quality and spending our health care dollars more wisely,” said Secretary Burwell. “These awards will give patients more of the information they need to make informed decisions about their care and give clinicians access to information and support to improve care coordination and quality outcomes.”

As a Practice Transformation Network, The Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control is partnering with *Symphony Performance Health Analytics*, *Group Practice Forum*, the *North Carolina Northwest Area Education Center*, and *Access Healthcare Direct* to support 3,407 clinicians across the Southeast region to expand their quality improvement capacity, learn from one another, and achieve common goals of improved care, better health, and reduced cost. The network will provide patient-centered quality improvement strategies and tools, data analytics, practice design and care coordination techniques, and continuous medical education to help participating clinicians meet the initiative’s phases of transformation and associated milestones, clinical and operational results. “We look forward to working with CMS on this important initiative and are especially excited about the focus on community practices where COSEHC has spent its 23 years working to improve cardiovascular health”, said Debra Simmons, RN, MS, COSEHC’s Executive Director and Carlos Ferrario, MD, COSEHC’s Founder.

These awards are part of a comprehensive strategy advanced by the Affordable Care Act that enables new levels of coordination, continuity, and integration of care, while transitioning volume-driven systems to value-based, patient-centered, health care services. It builds upon successful models and programs such as the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Organization Program, Partnership for Patients with Hospital Engagement Networks, and Accountable Care Organizations.

For more information on the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative, please visit:
<http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Transforming-Clinical-Practices/>

COSEHC's mission: to empower health care professionals, patients, and the public with better knowledge, tools and competencies through continuous quality improvement to improve cardiovascular health.

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