

Contact: Lisa DiPrete  
Director, Communication  
Phone: 401.276.9141 x232  
Mobile: 401.633.2799  
EMail: ldiprete@riqi.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rhode Island Quality Institute Programs Help Physicians Meet  
National Quality Forum Behavioral Health Measures**

PROVIDENCE, RI: November 30, 2012 – CurrentCare and the RI Beacon Community, both operated by Rhode Island Quality Institute, will enable RI physicians to comply with new behavioral health quality measures endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF). The NQF recommends best practices for behavioral health, addressing issues such as alcohol and tobacco abuse, antipsychotic medication adherence, side effects of psychiatric medications, and post care follow-up after hospitalization for mental illness.

CurrentCare—Rhode Island’s statewide Health Information Exchange—is a secure electronic network that collects healthcare data, which medical providers access and exchange to help them deliver safe, appropriate care. Dr. Jonathan Leviss, chief medical officer at Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) said, “We are pleased to note how CurrentCare’s functionality is aligned with NQF recommendations. CurrentCare is valuable in behavioral health care because physicians can monitor medications dispensed and picked up at pharmacies throughout the state, coordinate effective follow-up care after hospitalizations and review lab results from the major diagnostic lab services across RI. Aligning behavioral health with primary care is essential to patient-centered care of people with mental illness.”

Quality improvement initiatives by the RI Beacon Community are focused on several of the NQF measures. The RI Beacon collaborated with leading medical practices to establish a set of common definitions and health improvement measures, then tracked practice performance toward improvement

goals. The measures include three diabetes outcomes, depression screening and tobacco cessation intervention. Performance data is available to Beacon practices to promote collaboration and drive improvement of treatment outcomes.

“People with mental illness and chronic medical problems may have impaired function on many levels,” said Levis. “Anything we can do to make their lives easier is a big deal. The work done at RIQI through CurrentCare and the RI Beacon Community helps ensure these individuals stay on track with their treatment, while improving overall quality of care throughout the state.”

#### *About The National Quality Forum*

The NQF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of American healthcare. For more information on the National Quality Forum’s endorsed measures, visit the [NQF website](#).

#### *About Rhode Island Quality Institute*

Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) is a center of collaborative innovation that drives healthcare transformation to improve the Rhode Island health delivery system and health outcomes. Our mission is to improve the quality, safety and value of healthcare in Rhode Island and share knowledge that advances the field of healthcare improvement.

RIQI applies transformative measures to drive evolution of the healthcare system. We identify key initiatives by aligning leading-edge healthcare quality improvement strategies with needs and opportunities in our community. We maintain high-level partnerships with healthcare leaders, government and industry organizations and community-leading groups to build consensus around our strategic focus. In partnership with providers, we pioneer solutions with health information technology, quality improvement science and quality measurement/reporting.

RIQI is a 501c3 non-profit organization overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors. Board members are senior health industry leaders from our community, including CEOs of hospitals, health insurers and health-related businesses, along with leaders of consumer groups, academia and government agencies.

For more information visit, [RIQI.org](http://RIQI.org).

# # #