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**PQA Receives \$ 300,000 Grant From Community Pharmacy Foundation:
*Grant Supports Testing Pharmacist-Based Interventions to Improve Medication Use***

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Fairfax Station, VA. – The Pharmacy Quality Alliance, Inc (PQA, Inc.) received a \$300,000 multi-year grant commitment from the Community Pharmacy Foundation to support its research initiative to measure the effectiveness of pharmacist-based interventions that improve medication use. The partners participating in the PQA-supported demonstration projects will use the PQA-endorsed measures, which are aimed at improving medication adherence, ensuring adequate drug therapy for patients with diabetes and asthma, and helping to ensure appropriate drug therapy in the elderly population by avoiding medications that could potentially cause harm in this population. All PQA-endorsed measures were developed in partnership with the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA).

In announcing this grant commitment, the President of the Community Pharmacy Foundation, Philip Burgess, RPh, shared his enthusiasm for the work of PQA, “The PQA is uniquely positioned to demonstrate the pharmacists’ role in improving medication use and ensuring appropriate medication therapy in patients with chronic diseases. We have followed PQA’s pioneer work with the initial Phase I demonstration projects that involve public and private payors, over 250 community pharmacies, several data aggregation organizations, and health IT vendors. We are confident that our support will help PQA measure the effectiveness of pharmacist-based interventions that can improve medication adherence, patient safety and optimize medication management. Quality measurement in the pharmacy setting will lead to improvements in patient outcomes.”

PQA’s primary objective in this research initiative is to test and determine the effectiveness of one or more pharmacist-based interventions aimed at improving medication use quality by measuring changes in one or more of PQA’s initial starter set of quality measures. Set to begin in early 2010, Phase II

demonstration projects will be selected by PQA after the evaluation of Phase I projects has been completed.

In addition to PQA's primary objective, the Research Coordinating Council has also recommended that demonstration projects also include the following objectives:

- **Development of a Pay-for-Performance model:** Test a pay-for-performance model or other financial incentive that reimburses the pharmacist's time to provide the intervention(s), or develop the specifications for actuarial modeling of a pay-for-performance model.
- **Identification of the Causes of Low Performance Scores:** Determine the main underlying causes of low initial pharmacy provider level scores, e.g., why the patient skipped doses or took the medication incorrectly.
- **Evaluating the Impact of Pharmacist-Provided Interventions on Health Outcomes:** Further validate the pharmacy-level measures by evaluating the impact of the interventions on established patient-health outcomes or medical measures (e.g., by linking to medical claims data)..

PQA, established in April 2006 as a public-private partnership, is a consensus-based membership alliance that is uniquely positioned to drive the measure development process in the medication use sector. PQA's expanded mission is to:

Improve the quality of medication use across health care settings through a collaborative process in which key stakeholders agree on a strategy for measuring and reporting performance information related to medications.

PQA represents pharmacy providers, health plans, employers, PBMs, academicians, outcomes researchers, senior advocacy groups, health IT vendors, state and national healthcare associations and members of the pharmaceutical industry. For more information about PQA, Inc please visit www.PQAalliance.org.

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