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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**currentcare, Rhode Island's Health Information Exchange (HIE)
Invites Nursing Homes to "Get Connected"**

Let's be the 1st in the nation to have 100% of its nursing homes enrolling in the state's HIE

PROVIDENCE, RI (March 1, 2011) – Quality Partners of Rhode Island (Quality Partners) and the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) are striving to engage 100% of nursing homes in becoming enrollment partners in **currentcare**, Rhode Island's Health Information Exchange. **currentcare** presents an integrated view of health information from non-affiliated health care organizations to authorized healthcare providers through an Internet browser. For nursing home residents, **currentcare** will ensure that their treating physicians (in the nursing home, at a specialist's office, or in a Rhode Island emergency department) will have timely, accurate information at the clinical point of care.

Until now, doctors, laboratories, hospitals and others have relied on fax machines, telephone conversations, U.S. mail or patients to deliver health information to other providers. **currentcare** puts today's technology to use by connecting healthcare providers throughout the state to secure and up-to-date medical information. Collaborating with Quality Partners in the **currentcare** nursing home project has several benefits, including an on-site technical assessment of a nursing home's present-day information technology (IT) system capabilities.

"I look forward to implementation of **currentcare** later this year," says Dr. Rebekah Gardner, Senior Medical Scientist at Quality Partners of Rhode Island. "I envision this system increasing the effectiveness of communications among healthcare professionals – giving us access to accurate patient information at the moment it is needed."

RIQI operates **currentcare** and has worked with the Department of Health and other key healthcare stakeholders, including Quality Partners, to develop **currentcare**. The goal is to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivered in Rhode Island. To date, more than 130,000 people have enrolled. Enrollment partners include 7 hospitals, 300 physician offices, and 20 Nursing Homes actively enrolling.

Quality Partners has been working with RIQI on a pilot involving nursing homes throughout the state to be trained as enrollment partner sites. Once the system is available to participating clinicians later this year, these pilot homes will become some of the first users of **currentcare**. The first nursing homes have been enthusiastic and motivated enrollment partners and report that residents and family members have been overwhelmingly supportive of **currentcare**.

"Having timely, accurate health information is a critical ingredient in providing excellent care to our residents," says Kevin McKay, Executive Director at Tockwotton Home (Providence RI) and Immediate

Past President of LeadingAge RI. "Becoming an enrollment partner will increase the variety of data elements we already receive electronically and allow our residents' treating providers to make decisions with greater efficiencies."



**Mary Crockett,
Resident at Jeanne
Jugan – Little
Sisters of the Poor**

Residents are also looking forward to **currentcare** going live later this year. "It's such a relief to know that if I go to the emergency room that the doctors and nurses will have access to the labs and tests done in the nursing home and by any of my specialists," says Mary Crockett, resident at the Jeanne Jugan -Little Sisters of the Poor facility (Pawtucket, RI). "It's a load off my mind."

Rhode Island nursing homes are invited to learn more about this exciting project by attending a free event: the **currentcare** Breakfast Summit on Thursday, March 10 at: 1149 East Restaurant in Seekonk, MA. Nursing Home Administrators and Directors of Nursing will have the opportunity to learn more about the project, speak with colleagues who are already participating, and sign up to become an enrollment partner. To RSVP for the event, contact Carole Horsman at Quality Partners of Rhode Island at 401-528-3266.

If you are interested in participating in the **currentcare** nursing home project, please contact either: Lauren Capizzo (401-528-3239 lcapizzo@riqio.sdps.org) or Nelia Silva Odom (401.528.3212 nodom@riqio.sdps.org).

Visit www.currentcareri.org to learn more.

About Quality Partners of Rhode Island: [Quality Partners](http://QualityPartners.org) is a non-profit healthcare quality improvement agency providing consulting, research and education services. With a staff of over thirty physicians, nurses, educators, analysts and other professionals, we partner with national and local government agencies, foundations, insurers, healthcare providers, stakeholders and educational institutions on quality improvement initiatives. Quality Partners of Rhode Island is the Quality Improvement Organization for Rhode Island.

About the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI)

Founded in 2001, the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) is a collaboration of leaders in the Rhode Island community who share the intent to substantively improve the healthcare system in the state. The collaboration includes CEOs of hospitals, health insurers, and businesses, along with leaders of consumer groups, academia, and government. RIQI's mission is to significantly improve the quality, safety, and value of health care in Rhode Island. RIQI is the Governor-designated sole Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) for Rhode Island, chosen to coordinate the statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE). As the RHIO, RIQI is charged with bringing together health care stakeholders within the state and governing HIE among them for the purpose of improving health outcomes in the community. For more information, visit www.RIQI.org.