



HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt praises GDAHC President Vernice Davis Anthony for the group's efforts as a Community Leader for Value-Driven Health Care.

Profile of a Community Leader: Greater Detroit Area Health Council

Through its *Save Lives Save Dollars* initiative, the Greater Detroit Area Health Council's (GDAHC) is working to improve quality while reducing costs. The group aims to achieve 100 percent adherence to select clinical guidelines and save \$500 million over three years, or reduce southeast Michigan's increasing health care expenditures by one to three percent.

Already, this multi-stakeholder organization has seen success. GDAHC initiatives have resulted in adoption of standard metrics for performance and consumer education on ways to help drive quality and reduce costs. Also, by establishing incentives for performance and launching an online public report that encourages transparency, the group has helped bring health care plans into alignment. Visit [GDAHC's Web site](#) to learn more.

Medicare Shows Quality, Savings Results in Physician Pay-for-Performance Project

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that all physician groups participating in its Medicare Physician Group Practice (PGP) Demonstration project have improved the clinical management of their diabetes patients. The project is a three-year effort that rewards providers for coordinating and managing the overall health care needs of Medicare patients with chronic conditions. The results reflect the impressive progress that participating physicians have been able to make within the first year of the program.

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt praised the project's success, noting, "It provides new evidence that paying for quality of care instead of volume of services helps the program, physicians, and patients."

Across the nation, CMS is working with groups voluntarily participating in the PGP Demonstration. Together, they are identifying successful health care redesign and care management models that can be implemented to control costs and improve the quality of care that Medicare beneficiaries receive.

Bridges to Excellence

Since 2004, dozens of health care practices in Albany have revolutionized the way they care for patients. Using financial incentives to hasten progress, *Bridges to Excellence* has helped these practices acquire health information technology tools, gather data about their patients, and deploy resources to improve their patients' health conditions. As they have adopted these systems, the Albany practices have collected data on the care they give to patients with chronic conditions. Not only have the practices been able to improve the transparency of their efforts, the data they have collected confirms that the changes are yielding real results for patients. The practices have seen improvement across all of their performance metrics.



Bridges to Excellence is a leader in the Partnership for Value-Driven Health Care

and is helping employers, plans, and doctors – like those in Albany – adopt the four cornerstones. This work, which is currently underway in areas across the U.S., is helping our nation build a health care system based on quality, transparency, and value. Learn more about Bridges to Excellence [online](#).

Isn't It Time? Declare Your Support.

[Sign up today](#) to be a part of the Value-Driven Health Care movement.



"Every American should have access to a full range of information about the quality and cost of their health care options."

Secretary Michael O. Leavitt