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LVBCH and Sanofi US Release 2014 Type 2 Diabetes Report Key Geographic Regions in PA are Compared to State and National Statistics

Bethlehem, PA (September 2, 2014) For the second year in a row, *LVBCH* (Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare) and *Sanofi US* (Bridgewater, NJ) announce the release of the ***Type 2 Diabetes Report***. The 2014 report includes an overview of key demographics, financial, utilization, pharmacotherapy and health outcomes measures for Type 2 Diabetes patients in the Lehigh Valley, Harrisburg, Reading and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre metropolitan statistical areas. Also included are Pennsylvania (PA) and national benchmarks making it easy for both employers and providers to make comparisons and identify opportunities to better serve the needs of their employees and patients.

Although sponsored by Sanofi, all data in the report (covering 2011 through 2013) was collected and analyzed by an independent third party, IMS Health, Parsippany, NJ. This is done to ensure that the information in the report is completely independent and objective.

In commenting on the report, LVBCH President Tom Croyle stated, "This report is LVBCH's second effort to compare statewide and national benchmarks for diabetes care in the region where the majority of our employers are located. Diabetes is a major factor in employer spending for medical care and its impact on other conditions can further exacerbate the health status of employees. By identifying employees with diabetes, and providing the care they need, employers can maintain a healthier and more productive workforce."

Some highlighted findings from the 2014 report include:

- The percentage of Type 2 Diabetes patients in the state of PA who were 65 years or older climbed to 54.4% in 2013, exceeding that of the nation (51.3%). In each of the five profiled PA markets, the share of patients who were 65 to 79 years old increased, while the percentage of those aged 80 or older decreased.
- Type 2 Diabetes patients in the state of PA are more likely to be diagnosed by primary care physicians (15.1%) and internists (14.1%) followed by cardiologists (10.7%) and endocrinologists (4.1%).
- Nationally, the percentage of Type 2 Diabetes patients by gender in 2013 was higher for women (53.4%) versus men (46.6%). Similar statistics exist across all profiled PA markets.

- Hospital average length of stay (ALOS) for diabetes mellitus cases was above that of the nation (4.2 days) in four of the five profiled PA markets: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (6.4 days), Reading (5.5 days), state of PA (4.4 days), Harrisburg (4.3 days) and Lehigh Valley (4.2 days).
- The average charge per episode of diabetes mellitus related hospitalization ranged from a low of \$32,837 in Harrisburg to a high of \$58,576 in the Lehigh Valley compared to \$46,264 in the overall state of PA and \$38,554 nationally putting PA \$7,710 above the national average.
- The percentages of Type 2 Diabetes patients with commercial insurance coverage decreased in all profiled PA markets from 2012 to 2013. Meanwhile, the shares of Type 2 Diabetes patients with Medicaid coverage increased in each of the profiled markets.

Reports such as these assist employers in designing screening and wellness programs to assist their employees in maintaining a healthy life style. The complete report—in pdf version---is available on the LVBCH website at www.LVBCH.com. We thank our partner Sanofi US for its support of this important healthcare-related study.

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About LVBCH

LVBCH is a multi-state, not-for-profit, coalition of employers striving to provide the finest health care coverage possible for their employees, in the most economical fashion. The Coalition's mission is to improve the delivery, cost and quality of health care in our communities through: Collective employer action; Quality and data initiatives; Value based purchasing; and, Providing forums for the exchange of information, ideas and resources. The Coalition is also a member of the National Business Coalition on Health, the National Quality Forum and The Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit www.LVBCH.com.