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LVBCH and Sanofi US Release 2015 Type 2 Diabetes Report Key Geographic Regions in PA are Compared to State and National Statistics

Bethlehem, PA (September 28, 2015) For the third year in a row, the *Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare* (LVBCH) and *Sanofi US* (Bridgewater, NJ) announce the release of the **Type 2 Diabetes Report**. The 2015 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 2012 through 2014) 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 third 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. We thank our partner Sanofi US for its support of this important healthcare-related study."

Some highlighted findings from the 2015 report include:

- In each of the four PA local markets and across the Commonwealth (54.6%), the percentages of Type 2 diabetes patients age 65 or over exceeded that of the nation (51.6%) in 2014. Of the four PA local markets, the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre market was highest with 59.2% of the Type 2 Diabetes patients being age 65 or over.
- The average length of stay (ALOS) per inpatient diabetes mellitus case exceeded that of the nation (4.2 days) in every profiled PA market. ALOS was longest in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (7.2 days) and shortest in Lehigh Valley and Harrisburg (both 4.3 days). The PA average was 5.0 days.
- Every profiled market except Harrisburg (\$30,833) recorded higher average charges per inpatient (IP) diabetes mellitus case than the national mean (\$41,107). These charges were highest in the Lehigh Valley (\$65,403). The PA average (\$49,527) was 20.5% higher than that of the nation.
- For PA Type 2 diabetes patients with commercial coverage, inpatient provider charges increased by 9.2% between 2013 (\$2,442) and 2014 (\$2,666), a faster growth rate than those recorded by similar patients with Medicare (2.6%) or Medicaid (8.5%) coverage.

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.

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.