

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***LVBCH to End Partnership with Aetna***

**Bethlehem, PA** (September 22, 2015) The Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH) is ending its long-time relationship with **Aetna** and as of January 1, 2016 will no longer offer Aetna's health plan products to Coalition members. Aetna has been a "preferred partner" of LVBCH, offering self-funded, employer-designed health plans to Coalition members for more than 10 years.

The decision stems from Aetna's choice not to participate in LVBCH's periodic performance assessment process, which is required of all Coalition health plan partners. LVBCH invited health insurers in the region to participate in the assessment. Capital BlueCross, Cigna, Highmark and UnitedHealthcare participated. Aetna declined.

"Aetna's decision not to participate in the performance assessment in our market prevented our comparison of Aetna against national benchmarks and other health insurers in the region," said LVBCH President Thomas Croyle. "It is unfortunate because historically Aetna offered quality products and we have enjoyed a positive relationship."

The assessment is the first step of a comprehensive evaluation process to select Coalition health plan partners and to provide Coalition employer members with the information they need to make decisions when selecting a health plan. LVBCH uses the National Business Coalition on Health's (NBCH) eValue8™ tool, which uses established criteria to rank how well health plans perform on metrics-based national criteria. LVBCH announced the results of the assessment process in July with the release of its second [Health Plan Score Card](#).

As the leading evidence-based assessment tool available to healthcare purchasers, eValue8™ asks questions to determine how health plans are managing chronic conditions, reducing and eliminating waste, ensuring patient safety, closing gaps in care, promoting consumer engagement and contributing to payment reform.

"Admittedly, the evaluation process is involved and we respect Aetna's decision not to participate," Croyle said. "We wish them well and should they decide to participate in future assessments, we would welcome their involvement. As for the health plans who participated in the process, we thank them for their diligence and cooperation," Croyle added.

### **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](http://www.lvbch.com).