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LVBCH Releases Health Plan Score Card for 2015 Employers Utilize Results to Select Health Plan Administrators

Bethlehem, PA (July 28, 2015) The Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH) announces the release of its second ***Health Plan Score Card***, a ranking of how well health plans (national and regional health insurance companies) perform on metrics-based criteria established by the National Business Coalition on Health's (NBCH) **eValue8™** process. **eValue8™** is the leading evidence-based request for information (RFI) tool available to healthcare purchasers. The **eValue8™ RFI** 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.

This is the second time in the last three years that LVBCH has partnered with NBCH to measure health insurance performance in the region. According to Tom Croyle, LVBCH president, "The ***Health Plan Score Card*** summarizes a wealth of key information into an easy to understand guide for our members. Employers can use the information when they need to make decisions about which health insurance plans perform best in the region. The Score Card ranks health insurance plans with their peers in the region and against national benchmarks both overall and in key areas that are critical in managing employers' health care dollars and the health of employees."

The **eValue8™** process provides health plan purchasers with an alternative to relying on health plan marketing materials. It offers information verified by trained reviewers with expertise in health plan operations and value-based purchasing. Performance can be tracked year over year, within a state, by region, or across the country.

Based upon their particular **eValue8™** scores--*in eastern and central Pennsylvania market areas and in comparison to national eValue8™ benchmarks*--health plans are designated as gold, silver or bronze. **Gold** designation indicates a regional market leader. **Silver** indicates the plan is making strides towards becoming a market leader. **Bronze** designation recognizes a plan's willingness to participate in **eValue8™** and a commitment to becoming a market leader.

"While overall participating health plan performance improved from 2012, the results for health plans in the region continue to lag behind national benchmarks," said Croyle. "One of the most beneficial aspects of the entire process is the opportunity for employers to sit down with the health plans to discuss what the plans do well as well as opportunities for improvement."

LVBCH acknowledges the hard work and cooperation of the health plans that participated in the request for information, which made this report possible – **Capital BlueCross®, Cigna®, Highmark Blue Shield® and UnitedHealthcare®**. Most plans embrace the process as a step forward in helping to shape their businesses to meet employer needs and expectations. LVBCH continues to work with all health plans to achieve "Gold" status and deliver the best products and services in the region. For more information about LVBCH, visit 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.