

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**For more information, contact:****Thomas J. Croyle**E-mail: tcroyle@lvbch.com***LVBCH Releases 2016 Type 2 Diabetes Report
Key Geographic Regions in PA are Compared to State and National Benchmarks***

Bethlehem, PA (August 15, 2016) The **Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare** (LVBCH) announces the release of the **2016 Type 2 Diabetes Report**. The fourth edition of the report offers a high-level overview of the state of diabetes—and other chronic diseases—in markets within the Lehigh Valley and throughout the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania and national benchmarks are provided to help identify potential gaps in care. The most recent data, current as of 2015, encompass more than 9 million U.S. patients with Type 2 diabetes.

All data in the report (covering 2013 through 2015) was collected and analyzed by an independent third party, IMS Health, Parsippany, NJ. In addition, a review process takes place, before and during production of this report, between IMS Health and Forte Information Resources LLC. 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 fourth 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 their support of this important healthcare-related study.”

This year’s report provides a number of observations that will help providers and employers better meet the needs of employees, such as:

- The working-age portions (18–64) of Type 2 diabetes patients rose in Allentown, Harrisburg, Reading, and Pennsylvania from 2014 to 2015.
- The percentages of commercially insured Type 2 diabetes patients with an A1c level above 9.0% in Harrisburg (17.5%) and Reading (20.2%) exceeded that of the nation (16.7%) in 2015.
- Shares of Type 2 diabetes patients with a comorbidity of obesity in Allentown (20.0%), Reading (26.7%), and across the Commonwealth (25.3%) surpassed the national benchmark (19.5%) in 2015.
- Although the average number of inpatient diabetes mellitus cases decreased from 2013 to 2014 in all of the profiled markets except Scranton, they still eclipsed the U.S. mean by notable margins.
- Average annual inpatient professional charges for Type 2 diabetes patients with hypoglycemia were higher than those for Type 2 diabetes patients overall in all the profiled markets. The same held true for Type 2 diabetes patients with a diagnosis of cardiovascular disease, neuropathy, nephropathy, or PAD compared with Type 2 diabetes patients overall.

Early recognition and interventions for people at risk of diabetes and its complications are critical to managing the burdens these diseases have on employees' lives and productivity, as well as on employer costs. Reports such as this 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 access to quality affordable healthcare for their employees. 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.