

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**For more information, contact:****Carl Seitz**E-mail: seitzc@lvbch.com***LVBCH Releases 2017 Type 2 Diabetes Report
With a Focus on How Cardiovascular Conditions Can Impact Diabetes Care***

Bethlehem, PA (September 13, 2017) The **Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH)** announces the release of the **2017 LVBCH Type 2 Diabetes Report™**. The fifth edition of the Report offers a broad overview of the state of diabetes in markets within the Lehigh Valley and throughout the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania (**PA**) and national benchmarks help identify potential gaps in care and reinforce positive trends. The most recent data, current as of 2016 and spanning several years, encompass nearly 9.7 million unique patients nationally with Type 2 diabetes—of these, nearly 439,000 resided in PA.

All data in the report were gathered by QuintilesIMS, Durham, NC, a leading provider of innovative health care data products and analytic services. In addition, a review process took place, before and during production of the Report, between QuintilesIMS 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 Carl Seitz stated, “This Report is LVBCH’s fifth 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 to help providers and employers better meet the needs of employees. Please note that throughout the Report, the **Allentown** market includes Bethlehem and Easton, the **Harrisburg** market includes Lebanon and Carlisle, and the **Scranton** market includes Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton. Below are some highlights from this year’s Report:

- From 2014 to 2016, the percentages of Type 2 diabetes patients who were of working age (18–64) increased in three of the five profiled PA markets; in **Allentown**, this portion increased by more than two percentage points, to 45.4% in 2016.
- In most of the profiled markets, the percentages of commercially insured Type 2 diabetes patients with an A1c level above 9.0% rose from 2015 to 2016. In both **Reading** (18.5%) and **Harrisburg** (18.8%), these percentages surpassed the national benchmark (16.9%) in 2016, indicating a need for better control.
- Commercially insured Type 2 diabetes patients in **Allentown**, **Harrisburg**, **Scranton**, and **PA** were less apt to receive an eye exam in 2016 than they were in 2014. Such patients were more likely to have the eye problem, retinopathy, in 2016 than their peers across the U.S.

- The percentages of commercially insured Type 2 diabetes patients who filled prescriptions for three non-insulin antidiabetic therapies rose from 2015 to 2016 in four of five profiled PA markets (with the exception of **Reading**); average annual payments for such regimens increased across all the markets during this time frame.
- Complications can impact charges. For example, average annual professional emergency department charges for commercially insured Type 2 diabetes patients in **PA** were nearly 36% higher for those with a complication of stroke versus the overall average in 2016.

Early recognition and interventions for people at risk for diabetes and its complications are crucial to mitigating the impact of this disease on employee well-being and employer costs. Reports such as this help employers design screening and wellness programs to assist their employees in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. 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 Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, the National Quality Forum and The Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit www.LVBCH.com.