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Tuesday, February 26, 2019

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PATIENT QUALITY AT ALAMEDA ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH IMPROVES FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

Continuous improvements by Alliance community physicians led to a 30 percent jump in quality measures from 2015 to 2018

Alameda, CA – Patient quality has improved significantly for the third consecutive year at Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance), the local health plan that serves nearly 270,000 low-income residents in Alameda County. According to the 2018 results (measurement year 2017) of the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS), the Alliance scored 30 percentage points higher than in 2015. HEDIS is a tool developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) that is used by more than 90 percent of America’s health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service. The most significant improvements included increases in immunizations for adolescents, physical activity for children and adolescents, and prenatal care.

In 2015, the Alliance had the third lowest HEDIS scores of all Medi-Cal managed care health plans in the state of California, and in just three years, the organization is now performing in the top tier of plans in the state.

“We are proud to have significantly moved up the quality ranks over the last few years, attaining for the first time 100 percent of the required measures above the state’s minimum performance level,” said Alliance CEO, Scott Coffin. “This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Alliance staff and community providers. We look forward to advancing the mission of the Alliance to improve the quality of life for each of our members, and to becoming the most valued health plan in the state.”

The following categories include the Alliance’s most significant improvements:

- **Immunizations for Adolescents:** Vaccines are a safe and effective way to protect adolescents against potential deadly diseases. *In one year, the Alliance saw a 17 percent improvement for the number of adolescents 13 years of age who had one dose of the meningococcal vaccine, one Tdap vaccine and the complete papillomavirus vaccine series by their 13th birthday.*
- **Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents:** In the last three decades, childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and tripled in adolescents. Health lifestyle habits, including physical activity, can

lower the risk of becoming obese and developing related diseases. *In just three years, the number of children and adolescents who received counseling for physical activity at the Alliance has improved by 16 percent.*

- **Prenatal Care:** Timely and adequate prenatal care can prevent poor birth outcomes. It is recommended that a woman with an uncomplicated pregnancy be examined at least once in the first trimester for prenatal care. *In just three years, there was an 11 percent improvement in deliveries that received a prenatal care visit as a member of the Alliance in their first trimester, on their enrollment start date or within 42 days of the member enrolling into the Alliance.*

“Our strong partnership with community physicians and caregivers has played a significant role in improving the quality of care that our members receive,” said Alliance Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Steve O’Brien. “These noteworthy improvements demonstrate the accomplishments of our dedicated providers who work hard every day to provide quality care to our members.”

As part of the Alliance’s commitment to continuing to improve the quality of care for its members, it invested in implementing a Pay-for-Performance (P4P) initiative in 2014 that rewards primary care providers (PCPs) and PCP groups for superior performance and yearly improvements. Child immunizations, weight assessment and counseling for nutrition and physical activity for children and adolescents, cervical cancer screenings and controlling high blood pressure are among a few of the measurements that PCPs will have the opportunity to focus on this upcoming year.

To learn more about the Alliance and its effort to improve quality of care in Alameda County, please visit www.alamedaalliance.org.

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About Alameda Alliance for Health

Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance) is a local, public, not-for-profit managed care health plan committed to making high quality health care services accessible and affordable to Alameda County residents. Established in 1996, the Alliance was created by and for Alameda County residents. The Alliance Board of Governors, leadership, staff, and provider network reflect the county’s cultural and linguistic diversity. The Alliance provides health care coverage to nearly 270,000 low-income children and adults through NCQA accredited Medi-Cal and Alliance Group Care programs.