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**QualityPath® expands with CT and MRI; more doctors, hospitals and clinics to join for 2017**

MADISON, Wis. (Oct. 4, 2016) – *QualityPath* has expanded to include CT and MRI scans for employers using The Alliance network who are focused on improving the value of health care. At the same time, it has expanded the number of doctors, hospitals and clinics who are providing care through *QualityPath*.

The Alliance today announced designated doctors, clinics and hospitals for surgeries and tests that will be offered through *QualityPath* in 2017.

Five hospitals and clinics met the quality standards for designation to provide CTs and MRIs through *QualityPath* beginning Jan. 1, 2017. They are:

- **Gundersen Health System**, La Crosse, Wis., providing CT or MRI at multiple sites in La Crosse and Onalaska
- **Midwest Open MRI**, Middleton, Wis.
- **OrthoIllinois**, Rockford, Ill., providing CT or MRI at two Rockford sites
- **Smart Choice MRI**, for Wisconsin MRI clinics in Richfield, Sheboygan, Appleton, Waukesha, Kenosha and Milwaukee.
- **Turville Bay**, Madison, Wis., with two MRI clinics in Madison and one in Middleton

*QualityPath* also continues to link patients to hospitals and doctors that, when working together, provide high-quality care for the surgeries of knee replacement, total hip replacement and coronary artery bypass graft (heart bypass graft). These hospitals and doctors meet the quality standards for designation as of Jan. 1, 2017:

- For Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (heart bypass surgery)
  - **Gundersen Health System, La Crosse, Wis. – new in 2017**
    - Dr. Venki Paramesh
    - Dr. Prem Rabindranauth
- For Knee Replacement and Total Hip Replacement
  - **Beloit Memorial Hospital, Beloit, Wis. – new in 2017**
    - Dr. Leighton Johnson
    - Dr. Ajmal Matloob
  - **Gundersen Health System, La Crosse, Wis. – new in 2017**
    - Dr. Edward H. Riley II
    - Dr. Mark Topolski
  - **Monroe Clinic, Monroe, Wis., designated since 2015**

- Dr. Lance Sathoff, designated since 2015
- Dr. Jonathan Swindle, **new in 2017**
- **Sauk Prairie Healthcare, Prairie du Sac, Wis., designated since 2016**
  - Dr. Matthew M. Hebert
  - Dr. Diana L. Kruse
  - Dr. Michael D. C. Lamson
  - Dr. David M. Marcu
  - Dr. Arnold N. Rosenthal
- **UnityPoint Health – Meriter, Madison, Wis., designated since 2015**
  - Dr. James Bowers

Gundersen Health System, La Crosse, Wis., is the only participating facility that has achieved designation for all surgeries and tests offered through the *QualityPath* program.

*QualityPath* is a two-year-old Alliance program that guides people to high-quality care while delivering savings to the employers who sponsor their health benefits. The Alliance is a cooperative that purchases health care on behalf of 240 employers and other organizations with self-funded health benefit plans in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

Outpatient CT and MRI scans were added to the program because:

- ***QualityPath* can be used to identify high-quality care.** This care can make a significant difference in patients' lives. For example, overuse of CT scans exposes people to unnecessary radiation; any exposure to radiation increases your lifetime risk of cancer.
- ***QualityPath* can help patients avoid wild variations in the price of CT and MRI scans.** Within The Alliance network, the lowest price for an MRI of a joint in the lower leg is \$440 while the highest is \$3,130, based on cost estimates obtained in April 2016.

Experts praise *QualityPath* for addressing quality for CT and MRI scans (see link to quotes below).

To date, Alliance employers have saved over \$250,000 by guiding people covered by their health plans to high-quality care through *QualityPath*. In addition to guiding people to high-quality care, *QualityPath* prevents unnecessary care by urging doctors and patients to make better decisions, together.

Patients who are on a traditional health plan get 100 percent coverage when they use *QualityPath* for surgeries and tests (savings differ for patients on a plan that uses a health savings account).

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**NOTE: Alliance President and CEO Cheryl DeMars is available for interviews. We can also provide contact information for participating employers and *QualityPath* patients. FAQs are available here: <http://www.the-alliance.org/Members/QualityPath/FAQ/>**

**Use these links to find:**

- [Experts' quotes about \*QualityPath\* for CTs and MRIs](#)
- [Quotes from the leaders of facilities joining \*QualityPath\* on Jan. 1, 2017](#)
- [Descriptions of facilities and doctors](#)
- [Photos of designated doctors](#)
- [More about The Alliance](#)