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For Immediate Release:

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Statement On CMS' "Geographic Direct Contracting" Model

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced new details for the "Geographic Direct Contracting Model," a new payment model in Medicare. The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC) released a statement in support of the new developments. The model represents the cutting edge of bringing value-based care to traditional Medicare, borrowing lessons from innovation in Medicare Advantage and other Medicare Alternative Payment Models like the Next Generation ACOs.

"The new regional model would give participants greater flexibility to serve their members with a range of medical and social services and supports, moving our health delivery system forward toward greater value and truly person-centered care," said John Rother, President of NCHC. "This is the kind of accelerated innovation in health care delivery promised for Medicare beneficiaries, particularly those with chronic conditions and dual beneficiaries."

The members of NCHC have been long dedicated to value-based transformation. Moving towards value-based care is important for both the financial sustainability of the Medicare program and improving access and the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. The Geographic Direct Contracting model is an important step towards a focus on population health in Medicare. Participants will be equipped with the resources and incentives to deliver high-quality, patient-centered, whole-person care. Further, the model would allow for beneficiaries to receive "enhanced benefits" on top of the original Medicare benefits, such as care coordination and management, increased access to home-based services and additional telehealth benefits, while keeping the same benefits and protections under original Medicare (e.g., patient choice of provider). The model also aims to decrease out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries to decrease barriers for accessing high-value care. The Coalition is excited about the possibilities that the model may bring to address complex care and social needs Medicare beneficiaries.

More information about the CMS announcement can be found here:

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-new-model-advance-regional-value-based-care-medicare>

About the Coalition: NCHC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to promoting health care affordability and accessibility. The Coalition represents more than 80 participating organizations, including medical societies, businesses, unions, health care providers, faith-based organizations, pension and health funds, insurers, and groups representing consumers, patients, women, minorities, and persons with disabilities. Collectively, our organizations represent more than 100 million Americans.