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PQA Appointed to the National Priorities Partnership

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Fairfax Station, VA. – The Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA, Inc.) has been appointed to the National Priorities Partnership Committee, an initiative convened by the National Quality Forum (NQF). The National Priorities Partnership is a collaborative effort that has been led by 28 major national organizations that collectively influence every part of the health care system. PQA is as a consensus-based alliance, representing a broad and growing number of healthcare stakeholders committed to improving medication use and medication related services across the health care system.

“Pharmacists play an important role in achieving the National Priorities and Goals,” said Janet M. Corrigan, President and CEO of the National Quality Forum, which convened the National Priorities Partnership in 2008. “They help ensure that patients receive safer, better coordinated care on a daily basis; drive the system to improve patient outcomes through effective medication management; and are on the front lines when it comes to truly engaging patients in and educating patients about their care.”

Laura Cranston, PQA’s Executive Director, commented on the appointment to the National Priorities Partnership, “As a relatively new organization in the growing performance measurement enterprise, we are pleased that the National Quality Forum’s (NQF) Board has expanded the members of the National Priorities Partnership. Clearly, the NQF recognizes the important role that pharmacists have in advancing appropriate medication use and ensuring optimal patient outcomes through appropriate medication management services. We look forward to being a part of this very important collaborative initiative.”

The Partners address the challenges of our healthcare system and represent multiple stakeholders drawn from the public and private sectors. The Partners have identified a set of national priorities and

goals to help focus performance measurement efforts on high-leverage areas--those with the most potential to result in substantial improvements in health and healthcare. PQA, in announcing its workgroups for 2009, has closely aligned the objectives of PQA's quality metrics initiatives to map with the six national priorities identified through the National Priorities Partnership.

PQA, established in April 2006 as a public-private partnership, is a consensus-based membership alliance that is uniquely positioned to identify appropriate quality metrics in the medication use and medication therapy management space. PQA's mission is to:

Improve the quality of medication use across health care settings through a collaborative process in which key stakeholders agree on a strategy for measuring and reporting performance information related to medications.

PQA represents pharmacy providers, health plans, employers, PBMs, academicians, outcomes researchers, senior advocacy groups, health IT vendors, state and national healthcare associations and members of the pharmaceutical industry. For more information about PQA, Inc please visit www.PQAalliance.org.

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