

COLORADO APPLAUDS PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED NOMINATION OF DON BERWICK, MD AS CMS DIRECTOR

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DENVER – March 29, 2010 – President Obama has announced his intent to nominate Don Berwick, MD as the new director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or [CMS](#). When confirmed by the Senate, Dr. Berwick will permanently fill this position that has been held by temporary appointments since Dr. Mark McClellan stepped down in 2006. It is not known when confirmation by the Senate will occur.

The CMS runs the government health care programs for seniors and the poor, providing benefits to an estimated 100 million people – about 1 in 3 Americans. In Colorado CMS works with the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs which cover over 575,000 residents. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing administers both programs.

“This is a brilliant choice for the president,” says Joan Henneberry, executive director of the department. “The president is sending a strong message to the health care community about his commitment to improving the health care delivery systems, quality of care and client health outcomes. Nominating a physician who has demonstrated his passion for improving the quality of care will provide leadership that is crucial to moving the nation forward in health reform.”

Dr. Berwick, a pediatrician, is president of the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) in Cambridge, Mass. The institute has been recognized for putting new ideas into action including developing a widely accepted construct for promoting health and health care called the Triple Aim™. This concept that has three critical components that are to be worked on together:

- Improve population health;
- Enhance the experience of care; and
- Decrease per capita cost.

The department's Center for Improving Value in Health Care, or [CIVHC](#), has developed its goals around the Triple Aim™ and is working on a series of strategies: creating a statewide All Payer Claims Database; transforming payment and delivery systems; and engaging consumers and businesses in efforts to improve the health of Coloradans while maximizing value and quality of health care received.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The Department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for Colorado's low-income, elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the Department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for

Coloradans. For more information about the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, please visit colorado.gov/hcpf.

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