

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Contact:**  
NH Citizens Health Initiative  
603-573-3300

NH Purchasers Group on Health and the NH Citizens Health Initiative  
Announce the Release of the NH Hospital Scorecard

CONCORD - The NH Purchasers Group on Health (NHPGH) is pleased to announce the release of the state's first ever statewide hospital cost and quality scorecard. The NH Hospital Scorecard ([www.nhpghscorecard.org](http://www.nhpghscorecard.org)) is one of several initiatives by the state's four largest public health care purchasers who make up the NHPGH, to highlight the quality and cost of healthcare for their more than 120,000 covered members, and for the general public.

The NH Hospital Scorecard demystifies quality measurement by assigning blue ribbons to hospitals in each of three quality areas; Hospital Patient Experience, Hospital Patient Safety, and Hospital Clinical Quality. The Scorecard also provides cost indicators for each facility by assigning indicators of \$ (Least Costly) through \$\$\$\$ (Most Costly).

"Despite the fact that we spend 10 billion dollars in our state on healthcare, and more than 2.2 trillion dollars as a nation, the United States ranks last, or 19<sup>th</sup> out of 19 industrialized nations in terms of quality. Making quality and cost information more transparent and more actionable is a necessary first step towards improving our health care system", said Paul Spiess, Chair of the NH Citizens Health Initiative.

"The University System has worked diligently to actively engage our employees in healthcare decision-making. The NH Hospital Scorecard helps us to advance this dialogue and underscores the fact high quality care can also be cost-effective", said University System of New Hampshire Chancellor-Elect Ed MacKay.

"The publication of this scorecard will enable the 40,000 people covered under the State's employee health plan to view important quality and cost metrics of the State's 26 hospitals. It will help our employees, retirees and their families become better health care consumers and raise their level of understanding about the services hospitals provide and the prices they charge. Hopefully, over time, it will lead to more informed healthcare decision-making." said State of New Hampshire Commissioner of Administrative Services, Linda M. Hodgdon.

About the NH Hospital Scorecard: All of the quality measures are drawn from nationally vetted and endorsed data resources available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Leapfrog Group. Cost measures are drawn from the NH Insurance Department's Acute Care Hospital Comparison Report which measures relative costs for a market basket of services. The NH Hospital Scorecard can be found at [www.nhpghscorecard.org](http://www.nhpghscorecard.org).

The NH Purchasers Group on Health is comprised of leadership from the State of New Hampshire Employee and Retiree Health Benefits Program, the University System of New Hampshire, the NH Local Government Center HealthTrust serving municipalities, schools and county governments throughout NH and the New Hampshire School Health Care Coalition, a joint labor/management partnership providing health benefits to public employees throughout the state. More information on the NH Purchasers Group on Health can be found at [www.nhpgh.org](http://www.nhpgh.org), or by contacting Heather Staples, Consultant, (603) 491-2701.

The NH Citizens Health Initiative seeks to create a system of care that promotes health, where quality is assured and care is accessible, affordable, effective, and safe. For further information, visit [www.steppingupnh.org](http://www.steppingupnh.org).