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OHIO SELECTED FOR HEALTH CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INSTITUTE

Healthy Ohio to help lead state's effort to improve health, health care

COLUMBUS – Ohio will focus on cancer screening, preventive care and chronic disease management as it joins eight other states in an effort to improve performance across targeted health care quality indicators.

“Continuous quality improvement in health care leads to a better quality of life for Ohioans,” said Cynthia Burnell, director of the Office of Healthy Ohio. “This will allow us to better focus our efforts in screenings, preventive care and management of chronic diseases such as diabetes.”

Ohio will focus on two crucial health care indicators: 1) increasing the percentage of Ohioans 50 and older who receive recommended screenings, such as colon cancer screenings, mammograms; and preventive care, such as flu shots, and 2) helping Ohioans with diabetes receive the recommended preventive care to them manage their disease and prevent or delay complications.

Along with Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont and Washington, Ohio was selected through a competitive process designed to identify states with the “commitment, leadership and resources necessary to build on past successes.” States will also implement new quality improvement initiatives geared toward achieving a high performing health care system in the United States, according to AcademyHealth and the Commonwealth Fund, backers of State Quality Improvement Institute.

The Office of Healthy Ohio, created by Governor Ted Strickland in 2007 and housed at the Ohio Department of Health, will play a key role in continuing, developing and implementing programs to address these and other preventive health issues.

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