



Press Contact

Jeanie Lunsford,
Sr. Communications
Manager, CareOregon
lunsfordj@CareOregon.org
(503) 416-3626

CareOregon and Housecall Providers to partner in expanding home-based medicine in the Portland metro area

Portland, Ore., May 4, 2017 – “The population of the metro area is evolving, and there is a growing need for home-based primary, palliative and hospice care in addition to the traditional clinic setting,” says Eric C. Hunter, CEO of CareOregon.

CareOregon and Housecall Providers (HCP) signed an agreement on May 3, 2017, as the first step toward a strategic partnership designed to increase access to home-based medicine across the Portland metro area. Beginning May 31, 2017, they anticipate HCP becoming a limited liability company in the CareOregon family, while continuing as a separate nonprofit, retaining its name, current providers and patients, services and location.

“We are thrilled with the prospect of working more fully with CareOregon, a longtime partner that shares our mission-driven commitment to vulnerable populations,” said Terri Hobbs, Housecall Providers executive director. “We believe this partnership will assist us in caring for more chronically ill people, while strengthening our team approach to home-based medicine. CareOregon has a strong track record of helping providers develop new operational strengths and greater service integration.”

As a national leader and one of the largest providers of home-based medicine on the West Coast, HCP offers in-home primary care, palliative care, and hospice services to nearly 2,000 homebound patients each year. By remaining a separate community asset, HCP will continue to receive patients through its historical referral sources, such as home health agencies, social workers, adult care homes, while also increasing access to home-based medical medicine for CareOregon members.

CareOregon serves approximately one fourth of Medicaid patients in the state. It also offers two Medicare plans.

“I believe one of CareOregon’s greatest assets is our ability to work collaboratively with our provider partners to help them improve practice quality and efficiency,” says Amit Shah, MD, chief medical officer for CareOregon. “We offer providers non-traditional support, such as

embedding health plan staff in clinics, individualized pharmacy services and medication management, and a wide range of payment innovations.”

“CareOregon works closely with valued community agencies to coordinate food, housing, and mental health needs with acute care needs. Housecall Providers, already part of our network, is an ideal partner because we share the same mission and commitment to caring for underserved populations, while focusing on individuals’ unique needs.”

Now participating in the fifth year of a national demonstration project, Independence at Home (IAH), HCP has proven that home-based medicine improves quality and efficiency of care for the chronically ill. With the nation’s best outcomes in the project, HCP has shown its tremendous importance in the future of national health care delivery.

“Through their more than 20-year histories, Housecall Providers and CareOregon have shared a common vision, mission and population,” said Hobbs. “Through this partnership, Housecall Providers will bring decades worth of experience delivering home-based medical care to an innovative health plan whose vision is for all individuals, regardless of income or social circumstances, to experience the best health possible. Together, we can improve delivery of home-based primary, palliative and hospice care to metro’s most vulnerable population in the face of a rapidly changing health care climate.”

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About CareOregon

CareOregon is a nonprofit community benefits company that’s been involved in health plan services, reforms and innovations since 1994, serving Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) and Medicare members and their communities. Our mission is cultivating individual well-being and community health through shared learning and innovation. Our vision is healthy communities for all individuals, regardless of income or social circumstances. We focus on the total health of our members, not just traditional health care. By teaming up with members and their families, providers and communities, we help Oregonians live better lives, prevent illness and respond effectively to health issues.

About Housecall Providers

Housecall Providers is a nationally recognized health care nonprofit dedicated to providing quality, home-centered medical care integrating primary, palliative and hospice services for homebound members of the community. A typical Housecall Providers patient is elderly with complex medical issues and multiple chronic disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Founded in 1995, Housecall Providers is led by Executive Director, Terri Hobbs and Medical Director, Dr. Pamela Miner. It employs nearly 100 people and provides care for nearly 2,000 patients annually. To date, its clinicians have made more than 160,000 house calls.