



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact:**

Tara Meadows  
(202) 261-2871  
tara.meadows@mslworldwide.com

**Wisconsin Clinics Rated on Osteoporosis Prevention**

*The Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality Releases New Performance Measure during National Osteoporosis Month*

**Madison, Wis.** – (May 12, 2009) – Women from Milwaukee to Madison to Green Bay to La Crosse can now compare clinics to see which medical groups are properly screening for osteoporosis thanks to the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality’s (WCHQ) first-ever performance measurement report on osteoporosis screening released today at <http://www.wchq.org/reporting/>. For the first time, Wisconsin-based health care providers are now publicly reporting how often they screen older women for osteoporosis.

The osteoporosis performance measurement report shows how often Wisconsin health care providers measure bone loss for women ages 65-85 with a bone densitometry test—the established standard to measure bone loss and screen for the condition.

Nationally, 10 million people—eight million women and two million men—have osteoporosis, and almost 34 million more have low bone mass, placing them at an increased risk, according to the National Osteoporosis Foundation. WCHQ, whose members are physician groups, hospitals and health plans, chose osteoporosis because it is a major public health threat to America’s aging population.

“WCHQ is committed to providing patients with the information that helps them find the best preventive care,” said Christopher Queram, president and CEO of WCHQ. “The reporting of performance measures allows patients to view important information about the performance of medical groups throughout Wisconsin, and ultimately helps them get better care, and helps providers deliver better care.”

WCHQ, along with 14 other community-based programs around the country, is part of Aligning Forces for Quality—a \$300 million dollar initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to spearhead high-quality health care reforms through regional groups. The initiative asks doctors, patients, employers, insurers, health groups, activists and others to work toward common, fundamental objectives leading to better care, including measuring and disclosing doctors’ and hospitals’ performance and educating consumers about chronic diseases.

WCHQ also reports performance measures for diabetes and coronary artery disease, pneumococcal vaccinations for adults, and screenings for colorectal cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer.

Because osteoporosis is a preventable and treatable disease, early diagnosis can make a tremendous difference in an individual's health. For more information on how to prevent osteoporosis and talk to your doctor about your condition, visit

[http://www.nof.org/prevention/healthcare\\_professional.htm](http://www.nof.org/prevention/healthcare_professional.htm)

### **About WCHQ**

The Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality is a voluntary consortium of quality improvement-driven organizations, learning and working together to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care for Wisconsin residents. WCHQ regularly releases Web-based reports to provide information on measures of health care performance in care areas such as diabetes and coronary artery disease, pneumococcal vaccinations for adults, and screenings for colorectal cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer. WCHQ has also published additional measures that combine quality processes and outcomes data with severity-adjusted data for hospital charges and length of stay to demonstrate the relationship between quality and cost in health care. For more information, please visit [www.wchq.org](http://www.wchq.org)

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