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## **Renaissance Physician Organization Leading Effort with Greater Houston Healthconnect to Enhance Care Coordination and Patient Outcomes**

*IPA a Pioneer Provider in Healthconnect's Health Information Exchange*

HOUSTON (December 20, 2012) –Renaissance Physician Organization (RPO), one of the largest independent physician associations (IPA) serving Greater Houston, has demonstrated its leadership in patient-centered accountable care by participating as the first IPA/ physician's organization in Healthconnect's regional health information exchange. Through this exchange, RPO providers will utilize a secure network of electronic health records to exchange and access pertinent information about their patients, enabling higher quality health care at a more affordable cost.

RPO is a citywide provider-owned and operated IPA comprised of nearly 2,000 primary care physicians and specialists and serves approximately 72,000 Cigna, HealthSpring and HMO Blue Texas patients throughout Houston and Southeast Texas. Healthconnect, the regional health information exchange (HIE) for Southeast Texas, links providers throughout 20 counties in the region to optimize overall community health.

“For more than 10 years, RPO has built strong doctor-patient relationships focused on coordinated, preventive health care. Our collaboration with Healthconnect greatly improves care coordination through increased access to patient medical information such as preexisting conditions, emergency room visits, medications, allergies and more,” said RPO physician Clare A. Hawkins, MD. “Such access at the point of care enhances quality, safety and efficiency so RPO physicians are able to focus quality time on their patients.”

Although many health care providers maintain electronic medical records to store patient information, Healthconnect enables providers and hospitals to communicate without



altering their own systems. Increased access to a patient's medical history may prevent costly duplications in care or unnecessary tests and also facilitates rapid decision-making. Patients will also enjoy better care coordination and convenience in the transfer of their medical records.

“Healthconnect’s robust protected HIE network of patient medical information will connect hospitals, physicians, laboratories and pharmacies,” said Jim Langabeer, Ph.D., president and CEO of Healthconnect. “Greater access leads to more affordable health care and increased patient satisfaction. Everyone in the connected community benefits from improved continuity of care and lower costs.”

Healthconnect received a \$5.6 million federal grant last year from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to build a secure patient information network among providers throughout the 20-county region. In addition to RPO, other major Houston-area providers already signed on to utilize Healthconnect’s services include Christus Health, Texas Children’s Hospital, UTMB Galveston and Legacy Community Health Services.

HIE participation is a key element of meaningful exchange. As part of the Affordable Care Act, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is providing incentives to hospitals and physicians to comply with meaningful exchange laws by 2014.

#### ***About Renaissance Physician Organization***

Renaissance Physician Organization, founded in 2000 as a doctor-owned and operated Independent Physicians Association (IPA), consists of Primary Care and Specialist Physicians located throughout Houston and Southeast Texas. RPO is committed to leading the health care industry through a forward thinking approach to coordinated care with an emphasis on quality and efficient medical delivery. Since inception, RPO has been dedicated to providing coordinated, preventive care that maximizes cost efficiencies while delivering the best possible patient outcomes for its patients. Learn more at [www.myrpo.com](http://www.myrpo.com).

#### ***About Greater Houston Healthconnect***

Greater Houston Healthconnect is an independent, community-based organization pioneering information exchange among healthcare providers in the Greater Houston area, which encompasses a 20-county region in Southeast Texas. Its goal is to mobilize healthcare information electronically across organizations thus enhancing the safety, quality, and efficiency of care throughout the region. Key stakeholders include healthcare providers, payers, employers and the community as a whole. For more information, visit <http://www.ghhconnect.org/>.