

## News Release

### For Immediate Release

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### ***HealthInsight's Sarah Woolsey, MD selected for new Innovation Advisors Program to improve care for patients***

Today, *HealthInsight*, a private, non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to improving health and healthcare in Utah announced that Dr. Sarah Woolsey has been selected for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Innovation Advisors Program.

The initiative, launched by the CMS Innovation Center in October 2011, will help health professionals deepen skills that will drive improvements to patient care and reduce costs.

"It is an honor to have been selected as an Innovation Advisor. This appointment demonstrates our commitment as an organization to engage patients and providers in order to achieve our goals for better care, better health and lower costs for patients." I look forward to making substantial contributions to moving innovation work forward," said Dr. Woolsey.

Dr. Woolsey is one of 73 individuals from 27 States and the District of Columbia participating in the Innovation Advisors Program. After an initial orientation phase, Innovation Advisors will work with the CMS Innovation Center to test new models of care delivery in their own organizations and communities. They will also create partnerships to find new ideas that work and share them regionally and across the United States.

Dr. Woolsey, a practicing physician with an extensive clinical background, currently serves as the Medical Director for the Utah Beacon Community, working to assist local physician offices to improve care for diabetes patients through Health Information Technology. She is a graduate of the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine and completed her Family Medicine residency at the University of Utah. She has been with *HealthInsight* since 2010.

Funding for this initiative was made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

"There has been an incredible groundswell of interest in becoming an Innovation Advisor. It's clear that doctors, hospitals and health care providers are enthusiastic about implementing the Affordable Care Act and strengthening our health care system," said CMS Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner.

The 73 Advisors were selected from 920 applications through a competitive process, and include clinicians, allied health professionals, health administrators and others. By attending in-person meetings as well as remote sessions to expand their skills and applying what they learn, the Advisors will be able to deepen their knowledge in health care economics and finance, population health, systems analysis, and operations research.

“We’re looking to these Innovation Advisors to be our partners—we want them to discover and generate new ideas that will work and help us bring them to every corner of the United States,” said CMS Innovation Center Director Rick Gilfillan, M.D.

Among other duties, the Advisors will be expected to support the Innovation Center in testing new models of care delivery, to form partnerships with local organizations to drive delivery system reform, and to improve their own health systems so their communities will have better health and better care at a lower cost.

*HealthInsight* will receive a stipend of up to \$20,000. The stipend will be used to support Dr. Woolsey’s activities while serving as an Innovation Advisor.

More information about the Innovation Advisors Program, including a fact sheet and a list of participants and their affiliated organizations, can be found at:

<http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/innovation-advisors/index.html>.

### **About HealthInsight**

*HealthInsight is a private, non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to improving health and health care that is composed of locally governed organizations in three western states: Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. The HealthInsight enterprise holds contracts, grants and accreditation in key areas of healthcare improvement. This work includes an Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research Chartered Value Exchange (Nevada, Utah); Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (Nevada, New Mexico, Utah); Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Aligning Forces for Quality (New Mexico); Office for the National Coordinator (ONC) Beacon Community (Utah); Medicaid External Quality Review Organization (New Mexico); Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (Utah, Nevada; New Mexico subcontractor); a Community Health Information Exchange (Nevada); Prescription Improvement Coalition (New Mexico); Utah HealthScape (Utah); and URAC accreditation (Nevada). HealthInsight is a recognized leader in quality improvement; transparency and public reporting; health information technology programs; healthcare system delivery and payment reform efforts; and human factors science research and application. Visit our website at [www.healthinsight.org](http://www.healthinsight.org).*

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