

Press Release

For Immediate Release

May 11, 2006

Contact: Dana Hawes

Telephone: 801-892-6645

dhawes@healthinsight.org

Twelve Utah Home Health Agencies Receive Award for Quality Care *HealthInsight* Program Encourages Excellence Through Accountability

Salt Lake City, Utah- May 11, 2006—During the Utah Home Health Care Association Annual Meeting today, *HealthInsight*, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Utah and Nevada, presented the 2006 *HealthInsight Quality Award* to twelve home health agencies selected for demonstrating high quality health care and excellence in performance on publicly reported quality of care measures. These measures come from clinical and administrative data that is collected from home health agencies across the nation.

The *HealthInsight Quality Award* Program was launched in September 2004 to promote transparency in health care. According to the Institute of Medicine, transparency in health care is defined as a system that is “accountable to the public, works openly, makes results known, and builds trust through disclosure.” By using available quality data to identify high performing providers and publicizing the results, *HealthInsight* aims to help providers improve health care and help patients become more active and informed participants in that care. The 2006 *HealthInsight Quality Award* will be presented to hospitals and nursing homes in coming months.

“*HealthInsight* is a community-oriented non-profit organization. By maintaining a neutral stance we have served as a catalyst for engaging the healthcare community in improvement activities for more than two decades,” said Marc Bennett, *HealthInsight* President and CEO. “We believe that promoting transparency in our local communities is a critical component in our overall strategy to create a safer healthcare system.”

The home health agencies selected for awards are:

- Uintah Basin Home Health
- Walden Meadows Home Health
- Superior Home Care
- Intermountain Homecare of Sanpete
- Caregiver Support Network
- Family First Home Health
- Intermountain Homecare of Dixie
- Rocky Mountain Home Care
- Lifepath Home Health Care
- Haven Home Health
- Southern Utah Home Care
- Life Care at Home of Utah

Links to access the home health quality information is available on *HealthInsight*'s website at www.healthinsight.org or by visiting www.medicare.gov and selecting *Compare Home Health Agencies in Your Area*, or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). The intent is to offer consumers the information they need to help them make more informed decisions.

HealthInsight, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, partners with local healthcare providers in the nursing home, home health, hospital, and physician office settings to improve the quality of health care for Medicare beneficiaries. For more information or links to Medicare data and other resources, visit www.healthinsight.org and select “*HealthInsight Quality Award*.”

###end###

This material was prepared by *HealthInsight*, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Utah and Nevada, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.

PUB # 8SOW-PR-TR-12