

Immediate Release Contact:

Jennifer Baldino Bonett Senior Communications Manager (302) 327-3351(o) / (267) 303-1811(c) jbaldinobonett@christianacare.org

Affordable Care Act Opens Health Insurance Marketplace: Christiana Care Marketplace Guides Help Patients Access Health Care Services

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Oct. 1) One of the most significant changes in the history of health care in the United States begins today as the health insurance marketplace opens, giving millions of Americans the ability to purchase affordable health insurance. Here in Delaware, as many as 90,000 people currently uninsured have the opportunity to buy coverage through a new virtual health insurance marketplace called Choose Health Delaware.

"This is a transformative time in health care," said Robert J. Laskowski, M.D., MBA, president and CEO of <u>Christiana Care Health System</u>. "For the first time, many adults and children will have access to the health care they need, when they need it." To help people navigate the new health insurance marketplace, Christiana Care has hired nine <u>marketplace guides</u>. Trained as health educators, the guides help patients enroll in the health insurance marketplace and educate them on how best to manage their health care needs. Christiana Care is the only hospital-based health system in the region that has been awarded a state contract to hire marketplace guides.

Delawareans interested in enrolling in health insurance can meet with marketplace guides at Christiana Care's Choose Health Delaware Day during a celebration event at Christiana Hospital at 10 a.m. and a community health fair at Hanover Church in Wilmington from 3-6 p.m.

Christiana Care's marketplace guides continue to serve patients at locations throughout the health system through the end of March 2014.

These locations include:

- Christiana Hospital Emergency Department.
- Wilmington Hospital Emergency Department.
- Middletown Emergency Department.
- Wilmington Hospital Health Center.
- Christiana Care Family Medicine Center.

The guides also visit school-based health centers, local community centers, health fairs and churches to help the uninsured shop for health insurance.

"At Christiana Care, our role is to serve our neighbors, and the marketplace guides program gives us the ability to further provide our neighbors with access to health care," said Janice Nevin, M.D., chief medical officer at Christiana Care. "Helping our most vulnerable patients get health insurance is part of our partnership with our community."

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care providers, ranking as the 21st leading hospital in the nation and 11th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Thomas Jefferson Medical College, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as for its Level-1 trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest capability). Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/whoweare.

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