



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES *QUALITYPATH*<sup>®</sup> DESIGNATED DOCTORS**  
***Initiative is among earliest attempts nationwide to measure physician quality***

MADISON, Wis. (Dec. 17, 2014) — Six doctors have been designated *QualityPath*<sup>®</sup> providers when working as part of a hospital-and-doctor pairing for specific procedures. *QualityPath* designation means these doctor-and-hospital pairings have committed to meet *QualityPath* standards when the program launches on Jan. 1, 2015.

*QualityPath* uses national measures of quality that include complication rates and requires implementation of important clinical processes to improve patient outcomes. For example, doctors and hospitals designated under the program will use technology to avoid exposing patients to harm associated with overuse of imaging tests.

Doctors and hospitals that meet the quality criteria must also agree to a bundled price with a warranty to qualify for the *QualityPath* program. The warranty protects patients from the cost of complications or readmissions arising from the procedure.

Designated doctors and their hospital partners are:

Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)

- Dr. Vijay Kantamneni at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, Wis.

Knee Replacement

- Dr. Christopher Dale at St. Clare Hospital, Baraboo, Wis.

Knee Replacement and Total Hip Replacement

- Dr. James Bowers at Meriter Hospital, Madison, Wis.
- Dr. Lance Sathoff at Monroe Clinic, Monroe, Wis.
- Dr. Mark Barba at Rockford Memorial Hospital, Rockford, Ill.
- Dr. Michael Chmell at Rockford Memorial Hospital, Rockford, Ill.

*Additional information about designated doctors and hospitals is provided at the end of this release.*

Alliance member employers who choose to participate in *QualityPath* are required to implement substantial incentives to encourage their employees to use designated doctors and hospitals. The program includes other support for consumers, including the Find a Doctor website and access to the services of a patient experience manager to help throughout the process of obtaining care.

“*QualityPath* achieves a long-standing goal of identifying high performing doctors and hospitals for high-stakes procedures,” stated Alliance President and CEO Cheryl DeMars. “Our aim is not only to help Alliance members get better value care, but to create real and meaningful change in the market. The doctors and hospitals that are designated under this program have reached a high bar of performance that will benefit all of the patients they serve.”

The *QualityPath* initiative was developed with input and collaboration from other private and public sector purchasers as well as clinicians. The Business Health Care Group, a coalition of large and small employers in southeastern Wisconsin, is a co-developer of the project.

"Engaging patients in shared decision making, implementing standardized care protocols based on evidence based practice guidelines, and measuring the impact of these changes on patient outcomes using clinical registries are essential elements to improving value in healthcare," said Dr. Kevin J. Bozic, William R. Murray Endowed Professor and Vice Chair, University of California, San Francisco Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

The quality criteria align with the priorities of other major purchasers, including those of the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds and the Wisconsin Medicaid program, which is part of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Clinical leadership and input was provided through consultation with physician groups under the direction of Dr. Gail Amundson, healthcare transformation consultant to The Alliance. Dr. Jerry Reeves, vice president of medical affairs, HealthInsight Nevada also provided guidance to the evaluation process. MetaStar provided audit services to verify the results.

“*QualityPath* represents a new covenant for health care, where doctors, hospitals, employers and consumers are each taking steps to create better outcomes at lower costs,” DeMars said.

The Alliance is an employer-owned, not-for-profit cooperative that moves health care forward by controlling costs, improving quality and engaging individuals in their health. Its more than 200 employer members provide health benefit coverage to 90,000 individuals in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

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**FAQs are available here: <http://www.the-alliance.org/Members/QualityPath/FAQ/>**  
**NOTE: Cheryl DeMars and Dr. Gail Amundson are available for interviews.**

### **More Information About Designated Doctors**

Please note: Photos of designated doctors can be downloaded at [http://www.the-alliance.org/press\\_room/press\\_releases/](http://www.the-alliance.org/press_room/press_releases/)

#### **Dr. Mark Barba**

Dr. Mark Barba earned his B.S. degree in biology at Chicago University and an M.S. degree in evolutionary biology at the University of Illinois. He continued his studies at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, obtaining his medical degree. Following orthopedic residency at Wayne State University, Dr. Barba completed additional fellowship training in Joint Replacement Surgery and Research at Rush University Medical Center.

His practice at Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd. is focused on adult reconstructive surgery and primary and revision joint replacement surgery, with an interest in advanced procedures such as hip resurfacing and partial knee replacement. He has completed advance training on the less invasive hip replacement procedure Direct Anterior Approach under the direction of the procedure's pioneers, Dr. Roger Emerson Jr. and Dr. John Barrington in Plano, Texas. Dr. Barba is Board-certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

#### **Dr. James Bowers**

Dr. James Bowers, MD, specializes in treating knees and hips. Through his work in orthopedics, he is able to restore his patients' active lifestyles through both rehabilitation and surgery. He likes to be on the cutting edge of orthopedic techniques and technologies, always looking to improve and learn new procedures. Dr. Bowers clearly communicates how he will perform a procedure and what a patient should expect afterward. He looks out for his patients, treating them like a member of his own family and making sure they are satisfied with their results. Learn more at [meriter.com/Bowers](http://meriter.com/Bowers).

#### **Dr. Michael Chmell**

Dr. Michael Chmell earned his B.S. degree at the University of Notre Dame. He continued his studies at the University of Chicago Medical School, where he obtained his medical degree. Following his residency at Vanderbilt University he completed a year-long fellowship, subspecializing in total joint arthroplasty at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard University Medical School.

His practice at Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd. is focused on adult reconstructive. He remains active in continuing medical education and serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He participates in research

and clinical outcomes studies, has authored several published articles, and presented numerous lectures at Orthopedic conferences and seminars. Dr. Chmell is Board-certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

### **Dr. Christopher Dale**

Dr. Christopher Dale is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon with experience in the newest techniques for [joint replacement surgery](#), [arthroscopy](#), and joint reconstruction. Dr. Dale joined Dean Clinic in 2006. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Biology from St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin, and he received his M.D. from the University of Wisconsin Medical School. He then performed an orthopedic residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. In addition to practicing orthopedic surgery, Dr. Dale serves as the Co-Chair of the Surgical Board Committee at St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo.

### **Dr. Lance Sathoff**

Dr. Lance Sathoff has been an orthopedic surgeon on Monroe Clinic's team for 15 years. In that time he has proven success in treating joint replacement patients and helped launch Monroe Clinic's Joint Replacement Center of Excellence. Known for his interest in new technologies and surgical advancements, Dr. Sathoff does direct anterior approach hip replacement, minimally invasive knee replacement, and shoulder resurfacing as well as knee arthroscopy, rotator cuff surgery, ACL surgery and fracture fixation. A board certified orthopaedic surgeon, he attended the Medical College of Wisconsin with residency of orthopaedic surgery at Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals.

### **Dr. Vijay Kantamneni**

A University of Wisconsin Medical School graduate, Dr. Vijay Kantamneni is a board certified cardiothoracic surgeon specializing in both cardiovascular and peripheral vascular surgery, including Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG). Dr. Kantamneni also completed a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery in Research in 1989 and has been a vital part of the Dean Clinic team since 1993. He currently serves as the Dean Clinic Chief of Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery.

## **More Information About Designated Hospitals**

### **Meriter Hospital**

Meriter–UnityPoint Health provides comprehensive, coordinated care to patients throughout the Greater Madison area through our clinics, hospital and home care services. Employing more than 3,500 people, Meriter offers primary and specialty care, including heart and vascular, orthopedics, women's health, and the busiest birthing center in Wisconsin. Meriter is a 2014 recipient of the National Research Corporations' *Top*

*Rated Pediatric Doctors* award, a four-time winner of the *Most Wired* award and *In Business* magazine's 2014 Top Company to Work For. For more information, visit [meriter.com](http://meriter.com).

### **Monroe Clinic**

State-of-the-art joint replacement procedures – including anterior hip—are performed in Monroe Clinic's state-of-the-art hospital and surgery center. Monroe Clinic has a dedicated location and team for the care of knee and hip replacement patients. The team is hand-picked for their expertise, positive attitude, and desire to provide outstanding service. Led by highly-skilled orthopaedic surgeons, clinical staff work together to provide exceptional care. In-depth education of patients and their coaches helps customers participate fully in their successful recovery. With over 200 replacements completed since the new program began in November 2013, Monroe Clinic performance results exceed national standards in the area of 1) time in the hospital, 2) ability to walk and sit comfortably, 3) overall customer satisfaction, and 4) recommendation of the services to others.

### **Rockford Memorial Hospital**

The most comprehensive healthcare system in the region, Rockford Health System comprises Rockford Memorial Hospital, Rockford Health Physicians, Visiting Nurses Association, and Van Matre Health Rehabilitation Hospital. Known as “The Place for Surgery,” Rockford Memorial leads the region with a surgical program focused on innovation, teamwork and the patient experience, as well as continuous improvement through data measurement and the honing of best practices. Through the *QualityPath* program, RHS offers Alliance Members a comprehensive Total Knee/Total Hip Replacement Program. The RHS joint replacement team of orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, pre- and post-operative nursing care staff, therapists and case management utilizes a comprehensive quality score card with data from the electronic medical record to continuously improve outcomes. Patients are educated and engaged at every step of the way, to facilitate preparation and speed recovery.

### **St. Clare Hospital**

St. Clare Hospital is Sauk County's largest primary care hospital serving the health care needs of residents in the greater Baraboo, Lake Delton and Wisconsin Dells area. The campus serves the entire age spectrum, from the Childbirth Center to St. Clare Meadows Care Center, with two additional urgent care facilities in nearby communities. St. Clare Hospital offers primary care services, plus radiation oncology, dialysis, total joint replacement, women's health services and chemical dependency treatment. In 2013, St. Clare Hospital was recognized as a Top Performer by The Joint Commission. It is one of three hospitals, two skilled nursing facilities, 61 clinic locations and a health plan in

Wisconsin that are owned and operated by SSM Health Care, a Catholic faith-based not-for-profit health system located in St. Louis, Missouri.

### **St. Mary's Hospital**

Serving South Central Wisconsin since 1912, St. Mary's Hospital offers a full range of inpatient and outpatient treatment and diagnostic services in primary care and nearly all specialties, including the Dean & St. Mary's Cardiac Center, Family Birth Center, Neuroscience Center, Orthopedics and Emergency Services. In 2013, St. Mary's Hospital was named one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by Truven Health Analytics. It is one of three hospitals, two skilled nursing facilities, 61 clinic locations and a health plan in Wisconsin that are owned and operated by SSM Health Care, a Catholic faith-based not-for-profit health system located in St. Louis, Missouri.