



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **SPECIALTY HOME HEALTH CARE BECOMES MEMBER OF NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO REDUCE ACUTE CARE HOSPITALIZATIONS (ReACH) *Agency Part of Select Group of Providers Working on National Project***

**EVANSVILLE IN, NOV. 6, 2006** –Specialty Home Health Care, Inc announced today that it has volunteered to partner with QIO Health Care Excel, Medicare’s Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) in Indiana and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY), Center for Home Care Policy and Research (CHCPR), in a demonstration project aimed at reducing the number of avoidable hospitalizations for home health patients.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), 28% of home care patients were admitted to the hospital in 2004. However, many agencies have much higher rates of re-hospitalization.

As one of 200 home care agencies nationwide Specialty Home Health Care is working with VNSNY CHCPR on the Reducing Acute Care Hospitalization National Demonstration Collaborative (ReACH). ReACH is a two-year multi-wave initiative designed to implement and disseminate evidence-based improvement strategies to reduce acute care hospitalization among home care patients. This model of collaboration is supported by a national learning community of participating home health care with local improvement assistance from local QIOs. The initiative provides participating home care agencies with access to breakthrough improvement methods, training and technical assistance to implement effective strategies in everyday practice.

“Our agency is dedicated to improving the care that all our patients receive in their home. Keeping patients out of the hospital is our top priority and we are dedicated to this goal,” said Sarah Claycomb, a registered nurse and owner of Specialty Home Health Care. “We are pleased to join home health agencies across the country to work on this important initiative. We believe the ReACH initiative will provide a wonderful opportunity for collaboration with other agencies committed to achieving meaningful reductions in acute care hospitalizations nationwide.”

### **About Specialty Home Health Care**

Specialty Home Health Care is a Medicare Certified locally owned home health care agency. They provide nursing, therapy and bath assistance in patient’s homes in southwest Indiana. Specialty has been in business since 1999 and has over 50 health care employees.



### **About Visiting Nurse Center of New York, Center for Home Care Policy and Research**

Established in 1993 by the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, the Center for Home Care Policy and Research (CHCPR) has become recognized as the pre-eminent research center for home care and is the only of its kind in the nation. The staff includes a team of Ph.D.-level researchers trained in health services, aging, and policy research and a complement of master's-level graduates in public health, social work, computer sciences, and related fields. The Center has a close relationship with its parent agency, the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, which enables the Center to conduct research that is broadly applicable to real-world home care settings. At the same time, the Research Center supports the larger field of home care by: advancing the knowledge base underpinning home care practice and policy, documenting trends, framing emerging challenges, analyzing policy and shaping the future home care research agenda options and their impact

In 2002, CHCPR initiated the Partnership for Achieving Quality Homecare (PAQH), a unique collaboration among home health care organizations to improve care for a priority population – elderly home care recipients – with funding from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. ReACH is the second Learning Collaborative sponsored by the Partnership, and expands participation to Quality Improvement Organizations and a wide array of home care agencies to support the translation of evidence-based strategies to frontline practice.