

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Tina Varona
Media Relations Manager
860.714.1076
tvarona@stfranciscare.org

SAINT FRANCIS IS THE ONLY NEW ENGLAND PROVIDER TO BETA TEST NEW URAC ACCREDITATION

Program Aids Development of Clinically Integrated Networks

(Hartford, Conn. May 13, 2013) – Saint Francis Care announced today that it is beta testing the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission's (URAC) new clinically integrated network (CIN) accreditation standards through its affiliation with Saint Francis HealthCare Partners. [URAC](#), an independent accreditation organization advancing quality and value throughout health care, created the new program to serve as a roadmap for health providers to achieve clinical integration and accountable care. By earning URAC accreditation, Saint Francis will demonstrate its ability to deliver improved patient care and reduced costs.

URAC's clinical integration accreditation guides health care providers on a number of areas for transforming care delivery, including operations, health information technology, clinical management, care coordination, and population health.

“We value the insights the beta testers have shared about URAC's clinical integration accreditation,” said Jane Webster, senior vice president for research, development and planning at URAC. “Feedback from health care providers helps to develop a product that matches industry needs. The beta testers also gain an advantage in the market by becoming early adopters, building the organizational foundation needed to become a fully accountable clinically integrated network.”

By forming a clinically integrated network, Saint Francis HealthCare Partners examines the needs of each patient, delivering care based on a common set of clinical practices. The benefits of forming a clinically integrated network are substantial for improving care delivery, reducing costs, and demonstrating evidence-based outcomes.

Saint Francis HealthCare Partners is a network of independent healthcare practitioners currently serving over 700 physicians in more than 200 medical practices. Over its 20-year history, the organization has been recognized for value and innovation in patient care. Clinical integration is

accomplished through the early-adoption of interactive IT solutions, single-signature-authority contracting and care coordination across the continuum.

“We are honored to be the only health system in the New England region to participate in URAC’s accreditation,” said Jess Kupec, President and CEO, Saint Francis HealthCare Partners. “The benefits of becoming clinically integrated are substantial for improving the delivery of care, reducing cost, and demonstrating evidence-based outcomes.”

About Saint Francis Care

Saint Francis *Care* is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis *Care* include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research, and Saint Francis HealthCare Partners. Its services are supported by a network of five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit www.SFHCP.org or www.stfranciscare.com

About URAC

URAC, an independent, nonprofit organization, promotes health care quality through its accreditation, education and measurement programs. URAC offers a wide range of quality benchmarking programs and services that keep pace with the rapid changes in the health care system and provides a symbol of excellence for organizations to validate their commitment to quality and accountability. Through its broad-based governance structure and an inclusive standards development process, URAC ensures that all stakeholders are represented in establishing meaningful quality measures for the entire health care industry.

As a leading national accrediting organization, URAC accreditation programs span the health care spectrum. URAC is recognized by State and Federal regulatory agencies for these programs. Most notably, the Administration has recognized URAC as an approved accreditor for health plans participating on health insurance exchanges.

For more information, visit www.urac.org and our [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) sites.