



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TSHCC Contact: Bev Rossmiller
bev.rossmiller@tshcc.com
217-221-3460

**The Tri-State Health Care Coalition
Awarded Grant from
National Business Coalition on Health for Diabetes Quality Program**

*Funding enables expansion of the Controlling Your Health For Life:
Patient Self-Management Program for Diabetes*

Quincy, IL – January 28, 2008 – The non-profit Tri-State Health Care Coalition (TSHCC) announced today that it is receiving funding through the National Business Coalition on Health's (NBCH) Diabetes Seed Grant Program to further its efforts to improve diabetes care in the Quincy and Hannibal areas. Launched with funding from Novo Nordisk, with additional support from Merck, Pfizer and sanofi aventis, the grant program was established to assist coalitions throughout the U.S. in implementing and evaluating models for improving diabetes care at a community-level.

"NBCH is pleased to support our member coalitions as they do the important work of convening market stakeholders around the treatment and care of employees with diabetes," said Andrew Webber, president and CEO of NBCH. "We congratulate the Tri-State Health Care Coalition for their efforts to improve the quality and efficiency of care for patients with diabetes."

TSHCC will use the grant to evaluate the HealthMapRx Diabetes Program in the Quincy, IL and Hannibal, MO area. The program in the Quincy area is known as *Controlling Your Health For Life* and was launched in July 2007 in cooperation with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Foundation and the Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA). The patient self-management program is community-based and utilizes specially trained local pharmacists to conduct face-to-face visits with the patient. The program integrates evidence based practice guidelines into the face-to-face meetings. Participants of the diabetes program have improved health; employers realize reduced health care costs; and physician practices have care plans reinforced and patients who are better managing their own illness.

"We appreciate the support from NBCH as we work to improve the health and reduce the long-term health care costs and improve productivity for employees with diabetes," said Bev Rossmiller, Executive Director, Tri-State Health Care Coalition. "Through collaboration at a community level and engaging all health care stakeholders we are working to empower patients to better self-manage their diabetes and improve their overall health".

NBCH will support member coalitions with evaluation and technical assistance to measure and report the results of these programs.

About the National Business Coalition on Health

Celebrating 15 years of value based purchasing, NBCH is a national, non-profit, membership organization of nearly 60 business and health coalitions, representing over 7,000 employers and 34 million employees and their dependents across the United States. NBCH and its members are dedicated to value based purchasing of health care services through the collective action of public and private purchasers. For additional information visit: www.nbch.org.

About the Tri-State Health Care Coalition

The Quincy based Tri-State Health Care Coalition (TSHCC) was founded in 1991 by a group of self-insured employers to help purchasers (employers and their employees) obtain more value from their health care benefit dollars and improve the health status of their constituents. Today, TSHCC has grown to over 60 member employers and is one of the nation's leading coalitions of private and public employers. TSHCC members employ over 25,000 workers. TSHCC offers employers a variety of health benefit educational seminars, networking opportunities, quality and community initiatives, demonstration projects and group purchasing programs. TSHCC is a member of the National Business Coalition on Health. For more information about *Controlling Your Health For Life: Patient Self-Management Program* for Diabetes contact Bev Rossmiller at (217) 221-3460 or info@tshcc.com.