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### **HRET Awarded Three New Grants to Study Delivery System Innovation and Improvement**

December 9, 2010 – Chicago, IL – The Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET), an affiliate of the American Hospital Association, has been awarded three new grants from The Commonwealth Fund to monitor and support improvement and innovation in health care delivery.

Under the first project, HRET will convene an invitational workshop to engage health care providers, researchers and policy makers in a dialogue about the design and implementation of innovative health care payment and delivery models. The goal is to identify elements of reform models that encourage provider participation and success in achieving cost effective, high-quality outcomes. This six-month project began on November 1, 2010.

For the second project, HRET will survey all U.S. hospitals and health systems about their level of integration and coordination. This twelve-month study begins January 1, 2011. “This study could not be more timely. It will produce a very much needed snapshot of where U.S. hospitals and health systems stand regarding their ability to function within accountable care organizations. By categorizing hospitals’ readiness to assume responsibility for the cost and the outcomes of a patient population and identifying areas of weakness and strength, the project will provide important guidance to CMS and other organizations as they assist hospitals in preparing to work effectively with accountable care organizations to improve care coordination and efficiency,” said Anne-Marie J. Audet, MD, Vice President of Health System Quality and Efficiency at The Commonwealth Fund.

Under a third study, researchers at HRET will draw from a wide range of data sources to create a series of data briefs interpreting health care patterns and trends directly relevant to health reform. This two-year project begins January 1, 2011.

“It is a privilege to work with The Commonwealth Fund on these important projects that will inform research, policy and practice as we work as a nation to implement major changes,” said Maulik Joshi, President of HRET.

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**Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)**

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and education affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET's mission is to transform health care through research and education. HRET's applied research seeks to create new knowledge, tools, and assistance in improving the delivery of health care by providers in the communities they serve. For more information about HRET, visit [www.hret.org](http://www.hret.org).