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**LOWER MERRIMACK VALLEY PHYSICIAN HOSPITAL ORGANIZATION JOINS
BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS CARE ORGANIZATION**

Anna Jaques Hospital and physicians' group seek tighter clinical integration with BIDMC

NEWBURYPORT, MA – Anna Jaques Hospital (AJH) and the physicians of the Whittier Independent Practice Association (IPA), which together make up the Lower Merrimack Valley Physician Hospital Organization (LMVPHO), will join the Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization (BIDCO).

The agreement will bring approximately 200 physicians of the Whittier IPA, a multi-specialty group in the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire, into BIDCO, an accountable care organization that includes Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), its affiliated community hospitals and their physicians. BIDCO shares risk and builds care management and quality improvement systems throughout their provider network, with the goal of providing the highest quality care in the most efficient way, throughout the care continuum.

The agreement means that AJH and the Whittier IPA physicians will become part of the system of care that includes Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) and its affiliated community hospitals and physicians. The new agreement with BIDCO will allow AJH and the Whittier IPA physicians to remain independent and locally managed while establishing a value-driven high-quality population management system for local care delivery and provide local patients access to affordable specialty care at BIDMC when necessary.

“The opportunity provided by this strategic alliance with BIDCO and BIDMC allows Anna Jaques to remain an independent, locally governed organization while aligning the goals and incentives of the hospital and the physicians in our community as we adapt to health care delivery and payment reform,” said David J. LaFlamme, Chairman of the Anna Jaques Hospital Board of Trustees.

“Our agreement with this exceptional tertiary partner secures Anna Jaques’ viability and continued financial success by improving the coordination and quality of care, reducing costs, and providing easier access to services at the appropriate location.”

“This new relationship builds on the success the hospital has achieved through its clinical affiliation with BIDMC over the past three years. The patients, the physicians and the hospital will all benefit as we work to provide excellent care in the right setting,” added Delia O’Connor, President and CEO of Anna Jaques Hospital.

“This newly integrated experience for patients means more services available locally, a reduction in duplication of tests and treatments, good access to care in Boston for complex medical conditions, and a coordinated and quick return of patients to their local community.”

BIDMC President and CEO Kevin Tabb, MD said the pact is a key part of the medical center's strategy to create a high quality, high value health system which supports care in the community and provides high end tertiary care in Boston as needed.

"This agreement is another important step in BIDMC's development of a community-based network of physicians and hospitals committed to providing the right care in the right place at the right time," Tabb said. "It is also right for the Lower Merrimack Valley community because it allows their local hospital and physicians to remain independent."

"This is exactly the kind of partnership that supports Beth Israel Deaconess' efforts to create a physician network unlike any other in the market – one that leverages the shared skills of diverse physician practices, community, and tertiary hospitals – and reflects BIDMC's continuing commitment to work with community-based providers," added Christina Severin, BIDCO's President and CEO.

"Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center has been a valued provider of specialized care for our patients," said Kevin Lanphear, DO, President of the IPA and LMVPHO. "With this agreement, we will be able to continue to enhance our clinical integration while sharing in the risks and rewards."

BIDMC and AJH are also extending a 2010 clinical affiliation – which includes Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at BIDMC – that will expand medical services in the community. BIDMC will also work with the LMVPHO to recruit additional primary care physicians to the greater Newburyport area.

"We are delighted to renew our relationship with Anna Jaques to offer the appropriate care to patients in the most appropriate setting," said Stuart Rosenberg, MD, President and CEO of Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

The agreement will be reviewed by the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission, as required under Massachusetts' 2012 health care reform law. Implementation is pending this review, which is expected to be completed within 60 days.

Anna Jaques Hospital is a 123-bed community hospital serving 17 cities and towns in the Merrimack Valley. AJH offers a wide range of acute care and outpatient services with state of the art technology and clinical approaches appropriate to a high quality community hospital. Programs include a primary stroke service, Level III Trauma Center, and wound center. For more information, visit www.ajh.org.

Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization (BIDCO) is a value-based, physician and hospital network and an Accountable Care Organization (ACO). With its corporate office located in Westwood, Mass., BIDCO offers physician groups and hospitals the structure to contract, share risk, and build care management systems together, with the goal of providing the highest quality care in the most cost-efficient way. To deliver value to patients, commercial payors, and government, BIDCO leverages the shared skills of more than 2,100 primary care physicians (PCPs) and specialists and numerous community hospitals, including Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth, and the Cambridge Health Alliance. BIDCO has a tertiary affiliation with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. BIDCO was an early adopter of

merging global budget accountability with the delivery of high-quality care, and is one of 32 Pioneer ACOs contracted with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. For more information, visit www.bidco.org.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center is a patient care, teaching and research affiliate of Harvard Medical School, and currently ranks third in National Institutes of Health funding among independent hospitals nationwide.

BIDMC is in the community with Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth, Anna Jaques Hospital, Cambridge Health Alliance, Lawrence General Hospital, Signature Health Care, Commonwealth Hematology-Oncology, Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare, Community Care Alliance, and Atrius Health. BIDMC is also clinically affiliated with the Joslin Diabetes Center and Hebrew Senior Life and is a research partner of Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. BIDMC is the official hospital of the Boston Red Sox. For more information, visit www.bidmc.org.