

For Immediate Release

## **New Models of Diabetes Care and Engagement Worth a Serious Look from Employers, Northeast Business Group on Health Report Finds**

NEW YORK, May 13, 2015 – Workplace diabetes management is ripe for innovation and there is an array of new solutions employers should consider, says a new report from Northeast Business Group on Health (NEBGH). Patient-centered medical homes, on-site clinics, near-site and convenience clinics, diabetes-oriented centers of excellence and pharmacist-led programs, often backstopped by advanced analytics and enhanced with new digital health tools, have emerged on the scene and are ready to provide improved care to people with diabetes. All have the potential to offer greater access and care coordination, more consistent patient engagement with evidence-based guideline-directed care and personalized services geared to level of need, according to the report, based on a NEBGH Solutions Center project involving work groups comprised of more than 30 executives from employers, health plans, consultancies and other organizations.

“Tackling diabetes is a top priority for our employer members, and they’re frustrated by the failure of traditional diabetes management programs,” said Laurel Pickering, MPH, President and CEO of NEBGH. “New models of care, combined with employer-sponsored activities such as providing rewards and incentives, creating a culture of health and experimenting with digital tools that support employee engagement, create a new landscape of diabetes management solutions that could really help employers move the needle when it comes to the diabetes epidemic.”

NEBGH’s latest report follows its 2014 report that highlighted the lack of employee engagement in diabetes management programs and cited the need for more innovation. Nationally, diabetes threatens the health of over a hundred million employees, and accounts for \$175 billion in direct medical costs and \$70 billion in indirect costs stemming from lost productivity, disability, mortality and early retirement.

“Employers have so much to gain with even modest success in diabetes management – and so much to lose if nothing is done,” said Jeremy Nobel, MD, MPH and NEBGH Solutions Center Executive Director.

“Managing diabetes is a daily, and in some cases an hourly, activity for employees and family members, and employers understand that. In addition to new innovative models of care, they’ve expressed strong interest in the potential of new digital tools for supporting employees across the needs spectrum – everything from app-based glucometers and weight and activity trackers, to online diabetes support groups and digital gaming. Huge numbers of tools are out there and most need rigorous testing in a workplace setting, but the potential is there.”

NEBGH’s report says innovative approaches to care delivery should be driven by payment models that incentivize providers to deliver high-value care and are structured to promote value of services, not volume. It also says it’s important for employers to evaluate new approaches based on the needs of their specific employee populations and the organizational landscape – a company’s characteristics, culture, strengths

and weaknesses. The report includes a series of questions employers can ask when evaluating those factors.

NEBGH's project -- the second phase of an in-depth exploration of diabetes and the workplace -- was designed to put multi-stakeholder participants to work in generating specific ideas and recommendations on improving diabetes management in the workplace. The next stage involves putting these ideas to work in the form of demonstration projects that if successful, can be scaled into sustained "game changers."

### **About NEBGH**

NEBGH is an employer-led coalition of healthcare leaders and other stakeholders with the mission of empowering members to drive excellence in health and achieve the highest value in healthcare delivery and the consumer experience. The Solutions Center is NEBGH's research and discovery platform for identifying the most promising, innovative opportunities for improving health outcomes, focused on employers as the catalyst for change.

Boehringer-Ingelheim and Merck provided funding to NEBGH's Solutions Center for its diabetes projects

Access the report [HERE](#)

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