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**IHI AND NEW ZEALAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO DEVELOP
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CENTER**

Initiative Will Establish a Leader and Resource for Quality Improvement in New Zealand and the Region

Cambridge, MA – February 10, 2011 – The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) announced today a new strategic partnership with the Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) in New Zealand to develop a healthcare quality and innovation center. IHI will help the center develop the capability and improvement capacity to support healthcare organizations and individuals in the region deliver safer, more effective and more patient-centered care. The partnership with IHI will bring CMDHB closer to achieving the objectives of IHI’s Triple Aim, which CMDHB has adopted as a framework for delivering high-quality cost-effective healthcare and better population health.

Dr. Jonathon Gray, newly appointed Director of Ko Awatea (a Maori name meaning first light of a new day) - the Centre for Health Services Innovation and Improvement at CMDHB, will be leading the partnership with IHI. Dr. Gray is also the Stevenson Professor of Health Innovation at Auckland University and the former Director of Healthcare Improvement at Public Health Wales. In the role in Wales he was co-director of the 1000 Lives Plus campaign, where he worked to improve patient safety and reduce avoidable harm. The 1000 Lives Plus campaign was an outgrowth of IHI’s landmark 100,000 Lives campaign in the United States. Dr. Gray is also a former IHI fellow, sponsored by The Health Foundation.

“We’re extremely excited to see IHI’s work extended to New Zealand,” said IHI President and Chief Executive Officer Maureen Bisognano. “Increasingly, we’re seeing countries turning to one another for new patient care models, and we look forward to gaining knowledge about improvement and ‘what works’ from our colleagues in New Zealand, as I’m sure they’re looking forward to learning from us.”

“Through the 1000 Lives Campaign in Wales, I’ve seen first-hand the incredible effects that quality improvement can have across all sectors of healthcare,” said Dr. Jonathon Gray. “I’m honored and thrilled to partner with IHI to achieve both similar and many other improvements in New Zealand.”

The quality and innovation center will serve as a resource center for and will educate students and healthcare professionals in the region in quality improvement and patient safety. Key elements of the partnership with IHI include strategic guidance from IHI’s senior leaders to CMDHB’s senior leaders; building regional resources to provide training and support improvement and R&D initiatives; CMDHB’s participation in the IHI Fellowship Program; and access to the IHI Open School.

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (www.IHI.org) is an independent not-for-profit organization that works with health care providers and leaders throughout the world to achieve safe and effective health care. IHI focuses on motivating and building the will for change, identifying and testing new models of care in partnership with both patients and health care professionals, and ensuring the broadest possible adoption of best practices and effective innovations. Based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, IHI mobilizes teams, organizations, and increasingly nations, through its staff of more than 100 people and partnerships with hundreds of faculty around the world.

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