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Nation's Top Leaders in Health Care Sustainability Announce New Purchasing Marketplace

Greenhealth Exchange to feature a broad range of green products used in health care settings; owners cite healing mission of health care and the desire to accelerate use of safer products and services.

DALLAS, Texas (May 17, 2016) — Concerned about the use of products and services in health care that are potentially harmful to human health, local communities and the planet, the nation's top leaders in health care sustainability announced Tuesday the launch of Greenhealth Exchange (GX).

"We know the health of our communities and the health of our planet are inexorably linked," said Sister Mary Ellen Leciejewski, OP, Director of Ecology for Dignity Health. "Using high-quality products and processes for our patients that are also eco-friendly has long been a priority for Dignity Health. Greenhealth Exchange will help to further this mission both for Dignity Health and the health care industry as a whole."

GX is a purchasing cooperative founded by four health systems including Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Dignity Health, Gundersen Health System, and Partners HealthCare along with longtime sustainability advocates Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth. GX is backed by a combined total of 60 hospitals that together represent \$21.2B in annual revenues and over \$4B in purchasing power.

"With the support of our members and supplier network, we will promote the adoption of products that support healthy people, a healthy environment, and healthy communities," said John Strong, President of GX. "At Greenhealth Exchange, we believe that we can help catalyze the development of low-toxicity, low-carbon, healthier products needed for the future."

Health care organizations in the US purchase more than \$300 billion of goods and services each year, accounting for 17% of the marketplace. Strong shared that this buying clout puts hospitals and health systems in a strong position to accelerate the adoption of products that are safer and healthier and spark innovation in the supply chain.

"Purchasing quality green products will soon become much easier for health care," said Gary Cohen, president and founder of Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth. "Greenhealth Exchange will enable more hospitals to abandon materials that are potentially harmful to the planet and public health in exchange for safer alternatives. We need to detox our economy in order to address our nation's chronic disease burden and health care is perfectly positioned to lead the way toward that healthier future."

For more than 20 years, Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth have worked collaboratively with hospitals, health systems, product manufacturers and suppliers to drive change in

the market for environmentally preferable products. GX will build on these efforts, helping hospitals overcome barriers to green purchasing by offering greater access to high-quality products at competitive prices.

“Greenhealth Exchange is a market differentiator and provides a competitive advantage for the participating organizations,” said John Messervy, AIA, Corporate Director of Design and Construction for Partners HealthCare. “Acting as an agent of change to bring an added level of transparency, buying and performance assessment, and reporting of innovative products and services will simplify the matter of ‘green’ purchasing and support our mission to tackle health care’s toughest challenges.”

“What we buy matters, to our patients, to our staff, and to the natural resources that our great-grandchildren will depend on,” said Dartmouth-Hitchcock’s Vice President of Supply Chain, Curtis Lancaster. “We are committed to achieving the healthiest population possible for generations to come. Investing in Greenhealth Exchange means multiplying our purchasing power and helping to move the marketplace. We are delighted to help launch this collaborative effort and encourage others to join us.”

GX is currently developing a network of suppliers and it expects to launch the online catalog in approximately six months. Conversations with additional major health systems are underway and Strong says he expects more to join GX before the catalog goes live.

Through detailed product specifications and supplier performance requirements, the unique marketplace will offer members access to the following:

- High-quality green products brought together in one catalog at competitive prices.
- Apples-to-apples comparisons on key product features including price and sustainability score plus health, environmental and community benefits.
- Tracking and reporting the benefits associated with every purchase.

“Supplies and equipment have as big, if not bigger, impact on the environment as our energy use and waste management,” said Jeff Thompson, MD, Executive Advisor and CEO Emeritus for Gundersen Health System. “That’s why Gundersen is committed to Greenhealth Exchange. So we can aggregate demand, identify finding products that will lower cost, be more sustainable, and enhance the wellbeing of patients and our communities.”

About Dartmouth-Hitchcock

Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H) is a nonprofit academic health system that serves a patient population of 1.9 million in New England. D-H has a legacy of environmental leadership dating back to the 1990’s and is committed to creating a sustainable health system. Always an early adopter of best practices in environmental stewardship, such as eliminating mercury-containing products and treating medical waste on-site, D-H has won Practice Greenhealth’s top award every year since the inception of the leadership awards program in 2003. Not content to rest on its laurels, Dartmouth-Hitchcock has publicly committed to an ambitious set of 2020 environmental sustainability goals that cover all areas of its operations. One of those areas is procurement. Becoming one of Greenhealth Exchange’s founding

investors will allow D-H to continue to reduce the environmental impacts from its supply chain and to more easily bring safer, less toxic products into its facilities.

About Dignity Health

Dignity Health is one of the nation's largest health care systems, with more than 400 care centers, including hospitals, urgent and occupational care, imaging centers, home health, and primary care clinics. Headquartered in San Francisco, Dignity Health has been focused on sustainability for more than 20 years and is recognized for its efforts to reduce waste and implement pollution prevention programs. In 2005, Dignity Health became the first health care organization of its size to use IV bags, solutions, and tubing that are free of PVC and DEHP. The health system has pledged to increase its use of renewable energy to 35 percent and to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2020 – a goal that the organization is already on track to surpass. In its legislative advocacy efforts, Dignity Health helped influence the passage of SB 350 in California, a landmark bill that will increase both the state's renewable energy use and energy efficiency in buildings by 50 percent.

About Greenhealth Exchange

Greenhealth Exchange (GX) is a Public Benefits Corporation structured as a purchasing cooperative created by Practice Greenhealth, Health Care Without Harm, and leading health systems deeply committed to environmental sustainability in health care. GX makes it easy to source products and services used in health care settings that are good for people, the planet and the bottom line. We work with our members to spark innovation in the supply chain: getting to next generation products, smarter and faster. www.GreenhealthExchange.com

About Gundersen Health System

Gundersen Health System is a non-profit, comprehensive integrated healthcare network headquartered in La Crosse, Wis. Gundersen's more than 7,000 employees serve patients, their families and communities in western Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota, and northeastern Iowa. Consistently ranked among the top five percent of hospitals in the United States for clinical quality by independent healthcare ratings organizations, Gundersen is the first health system in the country to offset its fossil fuel use with locally-produced energy and conservation. www.gundersenhealth.org

About Health Care Without Harm

Health Care Without Harm seeks to transform the health sector worldwide, without compromising patient safety or care, so that it becomes ecologically sustainable and a leading advocate for environmental health and justice. To learn more about Health Care Without Harm, visit www.noharm.org.

About Partners HealthCare

Partners HealthCare is a private non-profit health system founded by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. The Partners system includes community and specialty hospitals, a

managed care organization, a physician network, community health centers and home care services. Many of its hospitals are affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

Sustainability is, “a top organizational priority”. Partners is a [founding member](#) of the Healthier Hospitals Initiative, a coalition of health systems and hospitals who share the goal of reducing the sector’s climate footprint. Partners CEO, Dr. Torchiana co-chairs the healthcare sector of Boston’s [Green Ribbon Commission](#), a joint venture of competing hospitals coming together in support of the Mayor’s Climate Action Plan and reducing green house gas emissions by way of reduced energy consumption. Partners’ strategic energy master plan calls for reduced energy consumption of 25 percent by 2020. Partners is also in the process of creating and implementing a resiliency project to identify and align risks associated with climate change and manage them to reduce vulnerabilities. Partners’ commitment to sustainability has resulted in national recognition: for the previous three years, all affiliate hospitals received a Practice Greenhealth Environmental Award.

Additionally, Partners is one of the World's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Health Care, according to Fast Company. Partners was named to the 2014 list for "answering the call for urgently needed medical research" and for investing in the field of personalized medicine.

About Practice Greenhealth

Practice Greenhealth is the nation’s leading health care membership community whose mission is to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and is a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. To learn more about Practice Greenhealth visit www.practicegreenhealth.org

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