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**The KIPSQ Recognizes the Anthem Foundation for its Grant to Improve the Quality and Safety of Health Care Services Delivered to all Kentuckians**

**LOUISVILLE, KY (Monday, December 14, 2009):** The Kentucky Institute for Patient Safety and Quality (KIPSQ), the state's first organization solely dedicated to studying medical errors — why they occur and how to prevent them — would like to recognize the Anthem Foundation for its support of patient safety efforts in the commonwealth. The Kentucky Institute for Patient Safety and Quality is federally designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as a Patient Safety Organization (PSO).

The Institute was established by the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and is dedicated to quality and patient safety activities to improve the delivery of health care to every Kentuckian. The federal designation as a PSO will, for the first time, allow Kentucky's health care providers to confidentially report information on adverse patient events, near misses and best practices without fear of repercussions.

Through the generous support of the Anthem Foundation, the Institute will analyze reported data to begin answering questions about the safety of health care in Kentucky and help health care providers take steps to prevent future errors from occurring. The Anthem Foundation's

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\$100,000 grant will also go to support the submission of the data collected in Kentucky to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for national trending and information sharing among all PSOs throughout the country.

“Until recently, there was no system like this in Kentucky. Before, Kentucky hospitals could only review problems individually within their institutions, and did not systematically collect, nor share such data because confidentiality could not be maintained,” said KHA President Michael T. Rust. “KHA developed a PSO to help hospitals fulfill their mission of providing the highest quality of care to their patients. Knowing when and why medical errors happen in Kentucky is the first step towards making real progress in preventing them.”

Deborah Moessner, president and general manager of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, said, “The Anthem Foundation is pleased to support patient safety efforts in our state. This year marks the ten year anniversary of the Institute of Medicine report *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System*. The Anthem Foundation encourages the expansion of voluntary, provider-driven initiatives to improve the safety of health care and to share those findings, and speed the pace of improvement.”

**About KHA**

The Kentucky Hospital Association is a not-for-profit trade association of health care provider organizations that are committed to health improvement in their communities. KHA is the statewide advocate for its members, which includes more than 125 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care. Founded in 1929, KHA provides education for health care leaders, is a source of information on health care issues and is a provider of hospital quality and pricing data.

**About the Kentucky PSO**

The Kentucky Institute for Patient Safety and Quality is a non-profit subsidiary of KHA focusing on the statewide collection and analysis of adverse patient event data from health care providers and the dissemination of recommendations for improvement in care delivery. Based in Louisville, the mission of the Institute is to improve health care quality and patient safety through the dissemination of best practices and reliable, useful information, to foster a culture of safety and provide a learning environment for persons engaged in the delivery of health care services.

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