



TRANSCRIPT

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Good morning. On behalf of the Boston, New York, and the Philadelphia regional offices of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, we'd like to welcome you to the CMS regional office here in Philadelphia, into our Regional PACE Conference. We appreciate your coming and your attention to the comments that we have laid out for you.

Before I get into some other introductory comments, I'd be interested in knowing how many folks we have in the various parts of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, so if you're visiting us from New England, would you kindly raise your hand so we'll welcome our New Englanders. It's great to have you. How about New York and New Jersey? Oh, a very hearty group. And then the Mid-Atlantic, Maryland, Delaware, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia. Okay. Great.

And not only are we represented by PACE plans throughout these three regions but we also have CMS staff that are here to not only be a part of the program but also hopefully be able to answer some of your questions and help you with some of the issues that you're dealing with on a daily basis.

So those CMS staff that are here from the Baltimore, would you kindly identify yourselves so people know where to go if they have a beef with Medicare? Whoops. All the hands went down. And the Boston regional office? I know Marty is here somewhere. Okay. Thank you. Thank you. And last, but certainly not least, Philadelphia? Yee-haw. All right. Did I miss New York? How could I miss New York? New York regional office, I know I saw Mitch somewhere. I can't see because of the lights. Well, once again, we welcome you.

Currently there are 74 approved plans for PACE organizations in these -- in the country, and six of these are for-profit PACE applications that are pending. We have two approved for-profit PACE organizations, both here in Pennsylvania, and they're part of our demonstration project. And then in region one, which is the New England region, we have eight approved contracts. Region two, which is New York, New Jersey, we have 11 contracts. And in region three we have 18 approved contracts.

In July of this year, Dr. Donald Berwick was appointed as the administrator for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services at the Department of Health and Human Services. Since taking on this position, Dr. Berwick has written a monthly blog. In his first blog he referenced the "triple aim mission," which he refers to three key goals we

should embrace as a system. Number one, better care for individuals; two, better care for populations; and, three, lower per capita costs for healthcare.

In August of this year, Dr. Berwick visited Philadelphia and during that visit he had the opportunity to visit the PACE center. In his blog of September 16th, 2010, he reflects on his visit to Mercy Life and referenced this “triple aim mission,” and he stated, “Those are what our goals ought to be, and if you think this cannot be done just look at PACE.” So our new administrator has already recognized the value and the role of PACE in our National Healthcare System, and we have every reason to be optimistic about the future of PACE plans.

Our goals for this conference are to provide you with reinforcement and clarity of CMS’s requirements for the PACE program, as well as to have some of your colleagues share their experiences as they try to meet those requirements and adjust to new technologies. We hope and trust that you will find this conference to be informative and interactive. We’ve planned lecture-style presentations, as well as panel discussions and demonstrations.

You will note on your agenda that at the end of today’s session there will be a networking event. We look forward to having the opportunity to meet and greet all of you in a casual and relaxed atmosphere. So once again, on behalf of CMS, welcome to Philadelphia, the home of the past world champion, Philadelphia Phillies, and the Eagles, who showed what they could do last night.