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For More Information, Please Contact:

David Dugan, 503-552-5008
ddugan@gardcommunications.com

Acumentra Health Awards Home Health Care Quality Honors

Portland, Ore. — March 21, 2008 — Four of Oregon's Medicare-certified home health care agencies are being honored as recipients of Acumentra Health's 2008 Quality Leader award. The awards were presented at the Oregon Association of Home Care Annual Special Recognition Awards Luncheon held at the Salem Convention Center.

The Quality Leader awards are presented to home health care agencies that have had either the highest rate of improvement in management of oral medications or the lowest rate of acute care hospitalizations. These figures are based on performance for a 12-month period ending in September 2007.

The four agencies being honored are Adventist Health Home Care located in Tillamook, Bay Area Hospital Home Health in North Bend, Cascade Home Health & Hospice in Eugene, and Touchmark Home Services in Bend.

"The outstanding achievements of these four agencies are illustrative of the overall quality improvement accomplishments by agencies statewide. As a result of their strong efforts, Oregon continues to be a leader nationally in the Acute Care Hospitalization measure," explains Lynn Kemper, Home Health Project Manager at Acumentra Health.

Acumentra Health has honored similar achievements and presented Quality Leader awards for the past five years to acknowledge agencies that have shown the most improvement in key measurement areas. Recipients for each measure are selected from among small (fewer than 100 patient care episodes per year) and large agencies.

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Acumentra Health is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of health care. Established in 1984, Acumentra Health's work spans the continuum of care, reaching all ages and economic levels, and all delivery settings. Acumentra Health contracts with Oregon and Washington to provide External Quality Review (EQR) of managed care health services provided to Medicaid enrollees, as well as with Medicare to support effective, evidence-based health care for Medicare beneficiaries in Oregon along with overseeing the state's Medicare Beneficiary Protection Program. In addition, Acumentra Health contracts with state agencies, public health organizations and coalitions, health plans, hospitals, physicians and others to conduct health care quality assurance and quality improvement projects. As a leader in health care quality, Acumentra Health provides expertise in areas such as performance measurement and improvement, surveys, utilization management, healthcare data analysis, chronic disease management, peer review, and electronic health records. For more information, visit www.acumentra.org.