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ACP endorses National Priorities Partnership goals

Philadelphia, December 18, 2008 -- Continuing its commitment to reforming the U.S. health care system, the American College of Physicians (ACP) has endorsed the National Priorities Partnership's (NPP) goals to eliminate harm, eradicate disparities, reduce disease burden, and remove waste.

The NPP was convened by the National Quality Forum (NQF) to set national priorities and goals for healthcare reform. The 28 national organizations that participate in the NPP are committed to transforming the nation's health care system and represent those who receive, pay for, deliver, and evaluate health care.

"The patient-centered goals of the NPP align with many of the reforms recommended by the American College of Physicians, including access to care, improved quality, and lower costs," said Jeffery P. Harris, MD, FACP, president of ACP."

The six "National Priorities" are:

- Patient and Family Engagement to provide patient-centered effective care that encourages patient participation;
- Population Health to bring greater focus on wellness and prevention starting in our communities;
- Safety to improve reliability and eliminate errors wherever and whenever possible;
- Care Coordination to provide patient-centered, high-value care;
- Palliative and End-of-Life Care to guarantee appropriate and compassionate care for patients with advanced illnesses; and
- Reduce Overuse to remove waste, encourage appropriate use, and achieve effective, affordable care.

"ACP believes that the Patient-Centered Medical Home model of care -- which in conjunction with the other components of the health care delivery system is the future of health care -- will help to achieve the goals of the NPP," said Dr. Harris.

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About the American College of Physicians

The American College of Physicians (www.acponline.org) is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 126,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internists specialize in the prevention, detection, and treatment of illness in adults.

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