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*A participant in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's
Aligning Forces for Quality initiative to improve
health and health care in Oregon.*

**PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR WOMEN VARY WIDELY
ACROSS OREGON**

***Screenings for women also fall below national averages, according to a new report that
examines the quality and utilization of health care in Oregon***

PORTLAND, ORE. (August 14, 2013) – Clinics across Oregon show wide variation in screening practices for breast cancer, cervical cancer and Chlamydia, according to a new report released today from the nonprofit [Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation](http://OregonHealthCareQualityCorporation.org) (Q Corp). For cervical cancer and Chlamydia screenings, the average rates of clinics providing this care were below national averages.

The *Information for a Healthy Oregon* report also shows that a considerable number of women in Oregon received breast cancer screenings both before and long after the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended ages. In 2009, USPSTF changed the recommended age group for biennial breast cancer screenings from 40-74 years to 50-74 years. Yet, the report shows that 26 percent of women over the age of 85 received these tests.

In addition to information about women's preventive care, *Information for a Healthy Oregon* also includes data on potentially avoidable Emergency Department (ED) visits and hospital admissions. The report shows that potentially avoidable ED visits decreased significantly over the last year. For the first time, the report also includes data on hospital readmissions within 30 days of a previous hospital stay. In Oregon, one in nine hospital admissions by adults was followed by a readmission within 30 days.

"Since 2008, we've played a unique role in convening our community members to develop and evolve the most comprehensive health care data and analytics in Oregon," says Mylia Christensen, executive director of the Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation. "As Oregon continues to lead the country in health care innovation, *Information for a Healthy Oregon* will help demonstrate the impact of efforts to transform health care to meet the Triple Aim goals of improving overall health, enhancing the patient experience of care and reducing costs."

Q Corp is also working with local initiatives to help track the progress of efforts to improve health care. This year, *Information for a Healthy Oregon* examines the performance of clinics that are recognized by the Oregon Health Authority as Patient-Centered Primary Care Homes. Recognized primary care homes are accessible, accountable and offer comprehensive, continuous and coordinated care to patients and families. For women's preventive care, *Information for a Healthy Oregon* reveals that recognized clinics achieved a significantly better rate for Chlamydia screenings than non-recognized clinics. Recognized primary care homes also had significantly higher rates of providing well-child visits for children 3-6 years of age, appropriately using antibiotics for children with sore throats, and performing eye exams and kidney disease monitoring for people with diabetes.

Eight of Oregon's largest health plans, two managed Medicaid organizations and the Oregon Health Authority's Division of Medical Assistance Programs contributed claims data for this report. Combined, this data represents care given to nearly 2 million Oregonians and provides more reliable and useful information than any contributing organization can provide on its own.

Q Corp is part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's [Aligning Forces for Quality](#) (AF4Q) initiative, a program in 16 communities across the United States. AF4Q is the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's signature effort to improve the overall quality of health care in targeted communities. In 2007, RWJF selected Q Corp to lead the local AF4Q effort. Q Corp is also a designated Chartered Value Exchange by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and a member of the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement. In November 2012, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that Q Corp is one of the first three organizations in the U.S. to become a certified Qualified Entity to receive Medicare fee-for-service data.

For more information about *Information for a Healthy Oregon*, including a copy of the report, visit www.Q-Corp.org.

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The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality and affordability of health care in Oregon by leading community collaborations and producing unbiased information. We work with the members of our community – including consumers, providers, employers, policymakers and health insurers – to improve the health of all Oregonians. For more information, visit www.Q-Corp.org or follow us at [@OR_QualityCare](#).