

National Business Coalition on Health Releases 2008 eValue8™ RFI

Tool cut by almost 20% to focus on issues most critical to health care purchasers;
ProposalTech selected as new survey vendor

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 /PRNewswire/ -- Today the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH), a non-profit organization of employer-based health coalitions, released its 2008 eValue8(TM) Common Request for Information (RFI), an annual tool used by health care purchasers to compare the quality and efficiency of America's health plans. eValue8 is the nation's leading standardized RFI tool used by employers and coalitions to gather health care data from nearly 200 health plans and health insurers. Over 100 million Americans, or one in every three Americans, are members of health plans that respond to eValue8.

“Employers want to know what resources health plans deliver to help employees maintain or improve their health,” said Mary Bradley, director of health care planning for Pitney Bowes. “eValue8 continues to reflect the most important consensus issues of the nation's employers, including asking plans about critical value based benefit designs.”

New this year

A new survey vendor, ProposalTech, which creates software to manage RFIs and analyze results, has been selected to create an easier, more efficient process for health plans to submit data and enable purchasers to better understand their responses. As a result of this new platform, health plans can spend less time on the process and concentrate on providing better, more comprehensive information to employers.

Additionally, the eValue8 tool has been reduced by almost 20 percent to target the most critical questions employers have as purchasers and reflect the most important emerging health issues. Used to assess plan performance, negotiate contracting provisions and collaborate on programs to improve treatment of costly chronic health conditions such as diabetes, back pain and cardiovascular disease, the 2008 eValue8 RFI asks health plans how they manage providers and provide consumers with critical information on physician quality. Through eValue8, health plans provide details on how they support their members in navigating the health care system and manage pharmaceuticals - including how plans support consumers to follow prevention guidelines and take their medicine as prescribed.

Also new in 2008, eValue8 includes a section on total population health management - defined as a program that encompasses the interventions for the full range of at risk chronic and acute conditions with a focus on prevention, risk reduction, and self-care. The RFI will also survey issues around the medical home and promotion of appropriate minimally invasive surgery.

Expanded use of eValue8

The use of eValue8 continues to expand. For 2008, there are 20 employer purchasing coalitions participating, including two new coalitions - the Employers Health Purchasing

Corporation of Ohio and the **Puget Sound Health Alliance**. Additionally, many of the largest private sector purchasers of health care in the country use eValue8 including General Motors, Marriott, Pitney Bowes and 3M.

“With a national RFI tool such as eValue8, health plans can validate that they are working in the right direction to meet the needs and expectations of employers,” said Charles M. Cutler, MD, chief medical director of National Accounts for Aetna. “The tool also provides a framework for discussions between plans and employers or business coalitions about the health plans' current and future programs and activities.”

About the National Business Coalition on Health and eValue8

Celebrating 15 years of value based purchasing, NBCH is a national, non- profit, membership organization of nearly 70 employer-based health care coalitions, representing over 7,000 employers and 34 million employees and their dependents across the United States. NBCH and its members are dedicated to value based purchasing of health care services through the collective action of public and private purchasers. eValue8(TM) is a product of the National Business Coalition on Health and is the nation's leading evidence-based request for information (RFI) tool used by coalitions and major employers to assess and manage the quality of their health care vendors. For additional information visit <http://www.nbch.org>.