

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Caret Health Partners with the Rough Rider Rural Hospital Network to Launch a Medicaid Quality Improvement Collaboration**

*[Bottineau, North Dakota] – October 29, 2024–* Caret Health, a leader in healthcare innovation and high-risk patient management, is pleased to announce a strategic partnership with the Rough Rider Network, a rural hospital network of twenty-three independent rural hospitals in North Dakota to launch a groundbreaking Medicaid Quality Improvement Collaboration. This program represents a significant partnership aimed to improve healthcare quality in areas identified by North Dakota Medicaid / Health and Human Services Department.

The new program will focus on promoting communication, improving quality, and reducing cost for high-risk Medicaid patients through advanced analytics and enhanced care coordination. Through this initiative, Caret Health and the Rough Rider Network will leverage their combined expertise to engage chronically ill patients in proactive care, promoting general wellness, and reducing healthcare costs by improving management of conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure, ultimately preventing complications and enhancing patient outcomes.

According to Dr. Riya Pulicharam, Chief Medical Officer of Caret Health, *"We are excited to embark on this quality improvement journey with the Rough Rider Network. This collaboration is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how our solutions can drive meaningful improvements in healthcare quality and efficiency, ultimately benefiting both providers and patients."*

*"The partnership between Caret Health and the Rough Rider Network is a testament to the shared commitment to driving excellence in healthcare, especially for high-risk and/or often underserved populations. The two organizations will demonstrate that a low-cost and efficient team, through the usage of remote care as the primary engagement mechanism, can make a remarkable impact on the health of rural patients. We believe this will be a big step forward for improving health outcomes within resource-constrained environments."*

According to Dr J. Mark Gingerich, Primary Care Physician at SMP Health St. Kateri, *"The Rough Rider Network is very pleased to partner with Caret Health to improve the health of rural North Dakotans. Together, we will employ an innovative strategy to identify patients with unmet healthcare needs and then pair those patients with North Dakota's primary care experts. Our goals are to provide better patient care, improve community health, and use North Dakota's healthcare funds wisely."*

*"SMP Health – St. Kateri, along with the Rough Rider Network and Caret Health will be able to bring innovative healthcare to our most vulnerable patients. It is only through the engagement of programs like this that we will be able to change the future of healthcare in rural areas."* Paula Wilkie, CFO at SMP Health – St. Kateri

The program is set to begin in the coming weeks with results anticipated over the next six months. Both Caret Health and the Rough Rider Network are committed to continuous improvement and look forward to sharing the outcomes of this collaborative effort.

For more information about this partnership and the Medicaid Quality Improvement Collaboration, please contact:

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