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For Immediate Release
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PIPC: SENATE CER PROVISION A STEP FORWARD FOR PATIENTS

January 27, 2009 – Washington, DC – The Partnership to Improve Patient Care (PIPC), a group of 28 patient, provider and industry advocacy organizations, today issued the following statement on the comparative effectiveness provision in the U.S. Senate’s version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

“The comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) language in the Senate’s version of the stimulus package is a victory for patients and health care providers across the country, who have been seeking changes to ensure CER supports patient access to needed care and improves health care quality. Senators Harkin, Lautenberg, Baucus, Specter, Conrad, Enzi, Menendez and Carper and others who worked on this issue are to be commended for their efforts in crafting legislation that will provide critical information to providers and patients seeking to make informed medical decisions about best health care and treatment options.

“PIPC supports CER as a useful tool for provider and patient decision-making. PIPC has been working with the Senate to develop a CER proposal that stands behind patients, allows for broad stakeholder participation and improves overall patient care. PIPC believes the CER provisions of the stimulus bill must focus on clinical outcomes not cost effectiveness; require full transparency; and communication of study results, not policy decision making. PIPC appreciates the initial steps taken by the Senate in this direction.”

The Partnership to Improve Patient Care was formed in November 2008 to support proposals to expand the government’s role in comparative effectiveness research that are centered on patient and provider needs; raise awareness about the value of well-designed CER; and promote the important role of continued medical innovation as part of the solution to cost and quality challenges in health care. Partnership members include a wide range of health care organizations representing patient, provider and industry advocacy groups.

To learn more about PIPC, visit <http://www.improvepatientcare.org>.