

## **DFWBGH Launches Project Focused on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Management**

*Business group receives grant to work with employers on employee screening, education and benefits design efforts*

**DALLAS – December 3, 2013** – The Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health (DFWBGH) launched a new program to assist employers in combating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a chronic condition impacting more than 24 million Americans. Participating DFWBGH employer members include Atmos Energy Corporation, City of McKinney, and Greyhound Lines, Inc.

DFWBGH was awarded a \$55,000 grant from the [National Business Coalition on Health](#) (NBCH) through a collaboration with the [COPD Foundation](#) (COPDF). The grant will support efforts to improve COPD care by engaging employers in a 12-month demonstration project to assess the impact of COPD on employees through claims analysis and other data, provide COPD risk-assessments and screenings for employees, and develop strategies to implement COPD interventions using [COPDF's Employer Toolkit](#).

Left untreated, COPD – the term for progressive lung diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis – can have a significant impact on an employer's bottom line since COPD patients may be less productive, have greater absentee rates and medical costs. According to the COPD Foundation, 70% percent of people with COPD are in the workforce, and it's imperative that employers be equipped with the tools and strategies to promote early risk identification and health management of COPD.

"COPD is a progressive disease that often is not diagnosed until a majority of lung function has been lost," said Marianne Fazen, DFWBGH Executive Director. "Through this project, participating employers can improve COPD awareness, diagnosis and care resulting in healthier, more productive employees with better quality of life and lower health care costs."

### **About the Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health**

The Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health is a 130-member coalition of Dallas and Fort Worth area employers committed to market-based health care reform. Members include American Airlines, Bell Helicopter-Textron, Brinker International, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, JC Penney, Neiman Marcus, Sabre Holdings, Southwest Airlines, Texas Instruments, and others. A member of the Texas Business Group on Health and the National Business Coalition on Health, DFWBGH's goals are to empower employers to make informed health care purchasing decisions and to encourage health care providers to continuously improve their performance. For additional information visit: [www.dfwbgh.org](http://www.dfwbgh.org).

### **About the National Business Coalition on Health**

NBCH is a national, non-profit, membership organization of purchaser-led business and health coalitions, representing over 7,000 employers and 25 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. For additional information, visit: [www.nbch.org](http://www.nbch.org).

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