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AHRQ to Be Recognized with Award of Excellence in Health Research at 2016 PIAA Medical Liability Conference

Rockville, MD (April 22, 2016) – PIAA, the nation’s leading association representing the medical and healthcare professional liability (MPL/HPL) insurance community, will recognize the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) with the PIAA Award of Excellence in Health Research. The award will be presented on Thursday, May 12, at the PIAA Medical Liability Conference in Washington, D.C. AHRQ, a division of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is being honored for its contributions to improving the safety and quality of America’s healthcare system. Accepting the award on behalf of the Agency will be Acting Director Sharon B. Arnold, PhD.

“AHRQ excels in bringing together stakeholders to develop the knowledge, tools, and data needed to advance the U.S. healthcare system,” said PIAA Vice President of Research & Risk Management P. Divya Parikh. “The Agency’s focus on what is needed for continuous improvement in care delivery is leading to better care, smarter spending of healthcare dollars, and a healthier public.”

The mission of AHRQ, which was originally created as the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research in 1989, is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of healthcare for all Americans.

“We commend AHRQ for its dedication to the development of evidence that serves to maximize the quality and affordability of healthcare, and to its collaboration with HHS and other stakeholders in a way that ensures that its findings are fully understood and widely applied,” said PIAA President and CEO Brian K. Atchinson. “In particular, we applaud the agency’s Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety for its focus on improving healthcare-associated infections, patient safety, and patient communication.”

“AHRQ has also been at the forefront of government agencies in researching ways to improve the medical professional liability system,” Atchinson continued. “For example, it was tasked with overseeing the Medical Liability Reform & Patient Safety Initiative whose intent was to develop demonstration projects designed to enhance patient safety, improve patient/provider communications, and reduce the incidence of non-meritorious lawsuits.”

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PIAA is the nation’s leading association representing medical professional liability insurance companies, risk retention groups, captives, trusts, and other entities with a commitment to the quality delivery of healthcare. PIAA members insure more than 2 million healthcare professionals around the world—doctors, dentists, nurses and nurse practitioners, and other healthcare providers—including more than two-thirds of America’s private practicing physicians. PIAA members also insure more than 2,000 hospitals and 8,000 medical facilities.