ALLENTOWN, PA – October 14, 2019 – Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) and its affiliated preferred provider network, Valley Preferred, have joined the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Portfolio Program (Portfolio Program). Physicians participating in quality improvement initiatives with Valley Preferred who are board certified by one of 18 of the 24 ABMS Member Boards participating in the Portfolio Program may now receive continuing certification credit for their engagement in quality improvement work at their practice or clinic.

The ABMS Portfolio Program™ supports the assessment, learning, and improvement cycle for continuing certification. It recognizes practitioners’ ability to deliver quality, safe, and efficient patient care in a rapidly changing health care environment. Completion of the Valley Preferred/Lehigh Valley Health Network Quality Improvement (QI) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program gives Valley Preferred providers the credit they need for continuing certification, as well as providing eligibility for rewards under the participation component of Valley Preferred’s Achieving Clinical Excellence® (ACE) incentive program.

“Becoming a Portfolio Program Sponsor allows us to better meet the needs of our physician membership in a natural, integrated manner,” says Mark Wendling, MD, Executive Director of Valley Preferred. “Many of our physicians throughout LVHN are already working on quality
improvement projects. Our involvement in the ABMS program means they will have structured support for their efforts, and potential reward for their hard work.”

Leading the effort at Valley Preferred and LVHN are John Stoeckle, MD, CHQS, Associate Medical Director of Population Health for Valley Preferred and for the Department of Family Medicine, LVHN; and Michael Makela, Physician Advocacy Liaison with Valley Preferred. They form the official approving body of the Valley Preferred/Lehigh Valley Health Network QI MOC Program. Their support of the sponsorship is driven by their dedication to expanding a culture of quality throughout the LVHN enterprise.

“This sponsorship and program launch are further steps toward our effort to keep quality improvement top of mind for providers,” says Dr. Stoeckle. “Through our affiliation with health care data analytics firm Populytics, Inc., we make it possible for physicians to always be aware of their baseline data and what they need to do to improve. This new program is a true complement: it lets us promote the quality improvement aims of the organization as a whole while supporting clinicians in their continuing certification process.”

“We are thrilled to have Lehigh Valley Health Network become an ABMS Portfolio Program Sponsor,” noted Mellie Villahermosa Pouwels, ABMS Senior Advisor to the President. “The work they are doing will have a dramatic impact on the quality of care delivered to the patients and families they serve.”

For more information, visit www.valleypreferred.com.

ABOUT VALLEY PREFERRED

Valley Preferred, a clinician-led, preferred provider organization aligned with Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), is dedicated to Achieving Clinical Excellence® through the development and implementation of innovative programs to improve health care delivery and value in the community. Formed by Lehigh Valley Physician Hospital Organization, Inc. (LVPHO), Valley Preferred has a corporate philosophy consistent with the goals of the Quadruple Aim: Better health. Better care. Better cost. Better clinician experience. Collaboration is essential to achieving these goals. Working together, and driven by data insights from Populytics, a population health management and data analytics company, clinicians are able to deliver even more proactive, informed, and targeted care. The LVPHO also endorses Employer Health Solutions, a partnership of multifaceted health and wellness resources available through LVHN and Populytics. For more information, visit valleypreferred.com and populytics.com.

ABOUT ABMS

Established in 1933, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the leading not-for-profit organization overseeing physician certification in the United States. ABMS supports 24 Member Boards that develop educational and professional standards and programs of assessment to certify physician specialists, all dedicated to improving the quality of care to the patients, families and communities they serve. More than 900,000 physicians are certified in one or more of 40 specialties and 87 subspecialties offered by the ABMS Member Boards. For more information about ABMS, visit abms.org or call (312) 436-2600.