## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AS OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS, CANCER INSURANCE CHECKLIST IS UPDATED TO HELP PATIENTS CHOOSE HEALTH INSURANCE

Men's Health Network and Partnering Organizations Launch Newly Updated Tool to Help Patients Navigate Health Insurance Marketplaces

**WASHINGTON - (Nov. 17, 2014) -** Men's Health Network and a group of 18 partnering cancer and patient advocacy organizations launched an updated version of the Cancer Insurance Checklist, a resource to help people with cancer, a history of cancer, or a risk of cancer evaluate insurance plans in the health insurance marketplaces during the 2015 open enrollment period, which started on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Cancer Insurance Checklist guides consumers in reviewing the coverage within each insurance plan they are considering, including coverage for providers, specialists and hospitals, medications and various common cancer treatments and services they may need. The Checklist also provides a worksheet to help the consumer detail the costs associated with each plan. The Checklist is designed to be used while evaluating insurance plans and also when discussing them with a navigator or health care provider.

Since its launch last fall, the Checklist has reached thousands of people impacted by cancer shopping for insurance on the Marketplaces. It is available in print and online as a PDF download, in English and in Spanish.

"Thousands of Americans will be looking for health insurance coverage on the Marketplace during this open enrollment period," said Brandon Leonard, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Men's Health Network. "The Cancer Insurance Checklist can be a helpful tool for those impacted by cancer as they search for the plan that best meets their individual needs."

People with cancer concerns can download and print out the Cancer Insurance Checklist free of charge in English by visiting <a href="www.CancerInsuranceChecklist.org">www.CancerInsuranceChecklist.org</a> or in Spanish by visiting <a href="www.SegurosMedicosYCancer.org">www.SegurosMedicosYCancer.org</a>.

The Cancer Insurance Checklist was created through a partnership of the following organizations: The Assistance Fund, Association of Community Cancer Centers, Avalere Health, Cancer Support Community, Chronic Disease Fund, Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation, International Myeloma Foundation, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, Lung Cancer Alliance, Melanoma Research Foundation, Men's Health Network, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, National Patient Advocate Foundation, Oncology Nursing Society, Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, Patient Advocate Foundation, Patient Services, Inc. and Prevent Cancer

Foundation. Production costs for the Cancer Insurance Checklist were supported by a grant from Novartis Oncology.

## **About Men's Health Network**

Men's Health Network (MHN) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to reach men, boys, and their families where they live, work, play, and pray with health prevention messages and tools, screening programs, educational materials, advocacy opportunities, and patient navigation. MHN is the promoter of Men's Health Month and Men's Health Week in June. Men can learn more about their health through MHN's new online resource center, <a href="www.menshealthresourcecenter.com">www.menshealthresourcecenter.com</a>. Learn more about MHN at <a href="www.menshealthnetwork.org">www.menshealthnetwork.org</a> and follow us on Twitter <a href="@MensHlthNetwork">@MensHlthNetwork</a> and Facebook at <a href="www.facebook.com/menshealthnetwork">www.facebook.com/menshealthnetwork</a>.

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