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For Immediate Release

Hospice of the North Shore Acquires Partners Hospice

(December 13, 2010). Hospice of the North Shore, a recognized leader in hospice and palliative care on the North Shore, has signed an agreement with Partners HealthCare at Home for the acquisition of Partners Hospice, a premier provider of end of life care in Greater Boston. The two parties agree this action will strengthen their shared commitment to ensuring access to the highest quality end of life care for their patients.

For more than thirty years, Hospice of the North Shore has been at the forefront of end-of-life care with inpatient and home-based hospice and palliative care services, and state-of-the-art programs in grief support and pediatric care. Nationally recognized as a leader in end-of-life care, Hospice of the North Shore is the most comprehensive hospice provider in Massachusetts. The acquisition of Partners Hospice will broaden Hospice of the North Shore's service area to Greater Boston, expanding access to more patients and their loved ones at a critical and profound period in their lives.

In describing the acquisition, Diane Stringer, president and CEO of Hospice of the North Shore, said "the joining of the two organizations will have an immediate positive impact on end-of-life care for all residents of the North Shore and Greater Boston. Through this acquisition, our high-quality standards of compassionate care will reach even more patients and their loved ones. We welcome the Partners Hospice team to the Hospice of the North Shore family as we have a common vision and shared mission."

"Ensuring access to high quality care at home is at the core of everything we do," said Susan Beausoliel, vice president of operations, Partners HealthCare at Home. "As a result, we wanted to find a way to make sure our patients will always have access to the highest quality end of life care, both today and in the future."

Both organizations believe that Hospice of the North Shore's established patient base strengthens its position in light of likely changes to come with healthcare reform. From Palliative Care of the North Shore to the Kaplan Family Hospice House and the Bertolon Center for Grief and Healing, the agency offers a broad spectrum of services that is unmatched in the region.

About Hospice of the North Shore

Founded in 1978 as an independent, not-for-profit organization, Hospice of the North Shore is the largest and most comprehensive hospice provider in the Commonwealth. With the mission of providing expert care, support, education and consultation to those affected by life-limiting illness, death and loss, Hospice of the North Shore provides hospice and palliative care services to patients in homes, long term care and assisted living communities, and in the 20-bed Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers. For more information please visit www.hns.org.

About Partners HealthCare at Home

Partners HealthCare at Home is one of the region's largest not-for-profit home health care providers, offering a full array of home based services in homes, assisted living communities, and nursing homes throughout Eastern Massachusetts. The organization is committed to delivering the highest quality services available at home –

where the comfort and security of familiar surroundings greatly enhance quality of life. PHC was named to the 2009 HomeCare Elite list of the nation's top 25 percent of home health agencies. Member of Partners HealthCare, founded by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. For more information please visit www.partnersathome.org.