

## PRESS RELEASE

### Health Council Continues to Improve Care

**(Hamilton, Bermuda, 17th July 2017)** – The Health Council is committed to improving the health system, helping everyone to have access to quality, affordable and safe healthcare. We release our [Annual Report](#) for Fiscal Year 2016/17. We had quite a successful year in 2016/17 as we worked with health system stakeholders and listened to patient experiences with our health system. Specifically, for fiscal year 2016-2017 the Health Council:

- Guaranteed that patients do not pay out of pocket for the insured portion of health services by monitoring electronic claims processing
- Facilitated a patient safety campaign to encourage quality services
- Registered over 250 health facilities so the public knows what facilities are available to treat health
- Ensured patients have access to appropriate tests by tracking diagnostic and lab order rates
- Restored health insurance to 1,650 employees
- Recommended no premium increases for the public while increasing benefits to monitor heart conditions, treat peripheral artery disease, blood abnormalities, and foot conditions
- Developed a Unique Patient Identifier (UPI) to ensure that the right patient is matched with the right data

**CEO, Tawanna Wedderburn said:** “This has been yet another awesome year for the Health Council as we strive toward being the healthiest island in the world. We are committed to collaborating with health system stakeholders to lower costs, and improve the safety and quality of services. We are accountable to the public and share our Annual Report 2016/17 welcoming your feedback on our progress.”

Find out more about the Health Council’s achievements by reading the [Annual Report 2016/17](#).

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#### About Bermuda Health Council

Established in January 2006, the Bermuda Health Council (Health Council) is tasked with regulating, coordinating and enhancing the provision of health services in Bermuda. Led by a Board representing a broad range of sectors in Bermuda’s community, and staffed by a team of

committed professionals, the Health Council works with health system stakeholders towards achieving a quality, equitable and sustainable health system.