1**ATTACHMENT 3**

Dear Colleague Letter

For Million Hearts® Hospitals & Health Systems Recognition Program applications

Million Hearts® Hospitals & Health Systems Recognition Program

From: Million Hearts® Hospital or Health System Recognition Program
Sent: <date>
To: Million Hearts Partners
Subject: Million Hearts® Hospital or Health System Recognition Program

Dear Colleague:

Heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) kill over 800,000 Americans each year, accounting for one in every three deaths. CVD is the nation's number one killer among both men and women and the leading cause of health disparities across the population.

Fortunately, we know that improving outcomes for those with CVD is achievable. Million Hearts® is pleased to support the *Million Hearts® Hospital / Health System* Recognition Program and it's updated online application. This program recognizes institutions working to systematically improve the cardiovascular health of the population and communities they serve through the priority areas of: **1) Building Healthy Communities, 2) Optimizing Care, 3) Focusing on Health Equity and 4) Supplemental Programs and Innovations**.

Eligible applicants may range from health systems with multiple hospitals, hospitals with and without ambulatory medical practices, and medical practices not affiliated with hospitals.

The Million Hearts® team understands the immense challenges hospitals and health systems face as they continue to contend with the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also seen some incredible innovation arise as health care evolves to continue to meet the needs of all patients, staff, and surrounding communities amidst this challenge. We encourage hospitals and health systems to submit these innovations as part of their application, enabling Million Hearts® to highlight and share this critical work with others.

Applications will be reviewed and considered on a quarterly basis. For more information **about the program to apply, please visit** https://hospitals.millionhearts.hhs.gov/. Questions about the program should be directed to millionhearts@cdc.gov with "*Million Hearts® Hospital & Health System*" in the subject line.

Together, we can improve the cardiovascular health of the population, preventing heart attacks and strokes, through the use of cost effective, proven strategies.

Sincerely,

The Million Hearts® Team