

Buffalo Medical Group Earns National Recognition

WILLIAMSVILLE, NY – Buffalo Medical Group’s 325 Essjay Road office in Williamsville, has been recognized as a *Physician Practice Connections-Patient Centered Medical Home* (PPC-PCMH) by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

NCQA officials said the three-year recognition was awarded to BMG for using information systems to measure practice-wide clinical quality and improve clinical outcomes at the point of care.

“This prestigious national recognition is a tribute to our physicians and staff at the 325 Essjay Road site, whose embracing of electronic medical records (EMR) technology has had a significant impact on enhancing the quality of patient care,” said BMG Chief Executive Officer, Daniel J. Scully. He noted that BMG is seeking similar NCQA recognition for several of its other primary care office locations.

There are six physicians at the 325 Essjay Road site including Joseph F. Corigliano, DO, Chandra M. Fisher, DO, Andrew E. Halsdorfer, DO, Andre L. Lopez, MD, Nicole Leigh Symons, MD, and Eric J. Waffner, MD.

Commending BMG on its NCQA recognition, Thomas J. Foels, MD, MMM, Chief Medical Officer at Independent Health and a member of NCQA’s Physician Practice Connections®-Patient-Centered Medical Home National Advisory Committee, said, “The transformation of health care must focus on prevention and wellness, improving efficiency and enhanced information technology, which are key components of this distinction. Buffalo Medical Group has consistently demonstrated these qualities and should take great pride in this honor that recognizes their efforts to improve primary care.”

Physician Practice Connections-Patient Centered Medical Home recognizes those medical practices that use information systematically to improve the quality of patient care. Numerous studies, including the Institute of Medicine’s *Fostering Rapid Advances in Health*, have called for the systematic use of health care information, including more widespread adoption of information technology such as electronic health records.

Buffalo Medical Group began implementing EMR technology among its primary care physicians nearly three years ago. Currently, about 70 percent of BMG physicians have converted to electronic medical records in their practices. By the end of 2010, all of the Group’s physicians will be using EMR technology.

“Good information at the point of care is crucial to delivering quality health care,” said NCQA President Margaret E. O’Kane. “Physician Practice Connections-Patient Centered Medical Home identifies those doctors who make the most of the

clinical information they have on hand to make better decisions and provide better follow-up care.”

In earning NCQA recognition, Buffalo Medical Group’s 325 Essjay Road physicians and staff met key PPC-PCMH program standards in some or all of several areas including:

- Use of patient registries
- Partial or full use of electronic systems
- Provision of educational resources in English and/or a second language
- Practice-wide quality measurement and improvement efforts
- Screening, referrals and follow-up for at-risk patients
- Structured care for patients with chronic conditions

Founded in 1946, Buffalo Medical Group, PC, is among the oldest and largest multi-specialty physician practice groups in New York State and the largest in Western New York. With 90 specialists and sub-specialists as well as a team of 740 nurses, technologists, and other health care professionals, BMG records more than 400,000 outpatient visits annually at its main locations in Buffalo, Williamsville, and Orchard Park and 23 satellite sites.

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