

BMG Achieves Patient-Centered Medical Home Distinction

All Primary Care Offices Earn NCQA Highest Level Recognition

WILLIAMSVILLE, NY – Buffalo Medical Group has become the first health care provider in Western New York to receive National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Level 3 recognition as a ***Physician Practice Connections-Patient Centered Medical Home*** (PPC-PCMH) for all of its primary care offices.

According to NCQA officials, BMG's primary care physicians and staff were recognized for using information systems to measure practice-wide clinical quality and improve clinical outcomes at the point of care.

"This prestigious national honor represents the highest level of recognition our primary care offices could have received," said BMG Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Scull. "Most importantly, it is a reflection of many hours of hard work as well as a commitment by our primary care physicians to the use of electronic medical records (EMR) technology to enhance the quality of patient care." Scully noted that this latest recognition follows that received late last year by physicians and staff at BMG's medical offices at 325 Essjay Road in Williamsville.

Buffalo Medical Group offers primary care services at six locations in Erie County. The latest offices to earn NCQA ***Physician Practice Connections-Patient Centered Medical Home*** Level 3 recognition include those located at 85 High Street, Buffalo; 295 Essjay Road, Williamsville; 3345 Southwestern Boulevard, Orchard Park; 2741 Transit Road in Elma, and 2121 Main Street, Buffalo. A total of 22 BMG primary care physicians practice at those locations.

They include: Walter A. Balon, MD; Dominic M. Caparaso, MD; Michael R. Cellino, MD; Richard E. Charles, MD; Kapil Chatrath, MD; Dominic A. Cimato, DO; Richard L. Collins, MD; Richard R. Curran, MD; Dawn A. Gais, MD; Shuman Hua, MD; Gregory A. Jobs, MD; Mark Kim, DO; Cynthia X. Liu-Chen, MD; John C. Notaro, MD; Matthew O'Brien, MD; David A. O'Keeffe, MD; Polina Purizhansky, MD; Michael F. Pusatier, DO; Ravi N. Sinha, MD; Irene S. Snow, MD; Daisy Wen, MD, and Thomas G. White, MD.

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 more than three years ago. Currently, about 75 percent of BMG's

primary care doctors and specialists have converted to electronic medical records in their practices. It is anticipated that BMG will complete its EMR rollout by year's end.

"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 primary care 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 24 satellite sites.

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