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QOPI[®] THE QUALITY ONCOLOGY
PRACTICE INITIATIVE

**CERTIFICATION
PROGRAM**

NEWS RELEASE

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**Buffalo Medical Group Receives Cancer Care Quality Certification
from United States' Largest Oncology Society**

(Williamsville, NY) – Buffalo Medical Group, P.C. has been recognized by the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI[®]) Certification Program, which provides a three-year certification for outpatient hematology-oncology practices that meet the highest standards for quality cancer care.

The QOPI certification program is an affiliate of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the world's leading professional physician organization for those providers who care for people with cancer.

“The QOPI certification is important because ASCO is the most internationally-acknowledged authority on clinical cancer care and quality of care is measured specifically for oncology in a study designed by clinical oncologists,” explained Robert Zielinski, M.D., Buffalo Medical Group oncologist/hematologist.

Buffalo Medical Group is the only practice in Western New York and one of only 102 outpatient hematology-oncology practices in the United States who have received certification.

QOPI is a voluntary, self-assessment and improvement program launched by ASCO in 2006 to help hematology-oncology and medical oncology practices assess the quality of the care they provide to patients. Through the QOPI program, practices abstract data from patients' records up to twice per year and enter this information into a secure database. More than 700 oncology practices have registered in the QOPI program.

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“Cancer patients and their families should expect nothing less than accountability and the highest standards from their cancer care providers,” said Allen S. Lichter, MD, CEO of ASCO and President of the QOPI Certification Program. “QOPI participation reflects a commitment to quality of care that leads to fundamental changes in the clinical practice of oncology. Oncology practices that commit to quality and safety are those that provide the most optimal cancer care. The certification program helps practices determine whether they are providing the best treatment and care possible to their patients, and demonstrates a commitment to excellence and ongoing quality improvement in the hematology-oncology outpatient practice.”

The effort to achieve certification was rigorous and Dr. Zielinski credits the functionality of BMG’s electronic medical record software provider – Epic – as well as the Group’s nursing and administrative support.

“The volume of data reviewed to obtain certification is daunting and would have been nearly impossible without the robust search and sort capabilities of Epic, and tremendous effort by our non-physician support staff. I cannot imagine a practice obtaining this certification without the degree of nursing and administrative support we enjoy and the sophisticated EMR we employ,” he explained. “We are very proud of our achieving this certification and appreciative of the efforts of our entire staff in helping us reach the targets.”

The QOPI Certification Program (QCP) was launched in January 2010. This certification for outpatient oncology practices is the first program of its kind for oncology in the United States. Oncologists can achieve certification by demonstrating practice consistent with the highest standards of care. The QCP seal designates those practices that not only scored high on the key QOPI quality measures, but meet rigorous safety measures established by ASCO and the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS).

About Buffalo Medical Group:

Founded in 1946, Buffalo Medical Group, P.C., is among the oldest and largest multi-specialty physician practice groups in New York State. With more than 100 specialists and sub-specialists – as well as a team of more than 600 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 as well as 23 satellite sites. For more information on BMG, visit our web site at www.buffalomedicalgroup.com.

About ASCO:

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world’s leading professional organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 30,000 members, ASCO is committed to improving cancer care through scientific meetings, educational programs and peer-reviewed journals. For ASCO information and resources, visit www.asco.org. Patient-oriented cancer information is available at www.Cancer.Net.