



Catholic Medical Partners
INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION

For Immediate Release

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Catholic Medical Partners Recognized for Care of Chronic Conditions
Physicians group earns national accreditation for Disease Management programs

BUFFALO, NY – Catholic Medical Partners, a network of nearly 900 independent practicing physicians in Erie and Niagara Counties, recently achieved a significant milestone in its treatment programs for patients with chronic medical conditions.

The organization has received Patient Oriented Accreditation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for Cardiovascular Disease, Congestive Heart Failure and Diabetes Disease Management Programs. NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality.

The Catholic Medical Partners patient-oriented Disease Management program is implemented and embedded in the physician's office. Understanding the time constraints that exist within the physician's office, the program engages the physician, the physician's care team and the patient in the management of the patient's chronic disease. Practices that participated in the Catholic Medical Partners accreditation process were: Erickson and Erickson, DO; Family Care Physicians; Lakeshore Primary Care; Orchard Park Family Practice; Southgate Medical Group; and Sheridan Medical Group.

"Assisting patients in managing their chronic conditions brings together all of the many initiatives that we focus on with our members," said Dr. Michael Edbauer, Chief Medical Officer, Catholic Medical Partners. "Physicians and their office staff need not only to develop a plan for providing effective, coordinated care complemented by the use of technology, but they must also engage the patient as an active participant in that care plan."

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“We want to use our Disease Management program as a model for our physicians to replicate on behalf of, and in tandem with, their patients so they can achieve their targeted health outcomes,” explained Patricia Podkulski, Director of Disease Management and Care Coordination, Catholic Medical Partners. “Rather than having disease management and population health exist as a function at the various health plans and their vendors, we worked to place the care and patient engagement back into the doctor’s office.”

Catholic Medical Partners plans to expand the program to all of its affiliated practices.

Earning NCQA Accreditation is an indication that a Disease Management program is dedicated to giving patients the support, education and other help necessary to facilitate good outcomes and good care, reduce patient risk factors and create an environment of continuous improvement. The program’s standards are developed with input from researchers in the field, the Disease Management Advisory Council and standing committees, employers, both purchasers and operators of disease management programs, state and federal regulators, and other experts.

“NCQA’s Disease Management accreditation program is thorough and rigorous. It’s designed to highlight only those programs that truly improve chronic care,” said NCQA President Margaret E. O’Kane.

A network of nearly 900 physicians, Catholic Health and Mount St. Mary’s Hospital, Catholic Medical Partners is the largest group of independent practicing physicians in Western New York. Through the development and implementation of clinical integration programs, the organization and its members are focused on improving the efficiency, safety and quality in delivering medical care based on coordination, an educated and involved patient population and the sharing of information and resources that will make a difference in patients’ lives. For more information, visit www.CatholicMedicalPartners.org.