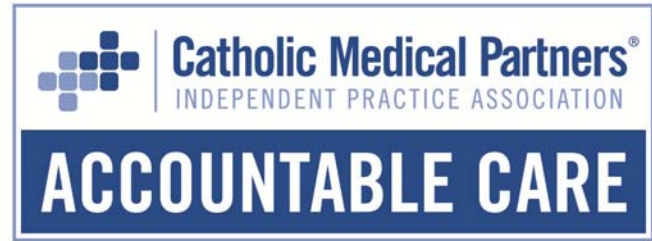




Catholic Medical Partners
INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION



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Contact: Phil Pantano · Pantano & Associates · (716) 601-4128 · phil@pantanoPR.com

Catholic Medical Partners Earns National Recognition
ACO is first in New York to achieve NCQA accreditation

BUFFALO, NY – Months after recording one of the best performances in the country under the federal Medicare Shared Savings Accountable Care Organization (ACO) program, Catholic Medical Partners has achieved another milestone in the accountable care arena.

The local physician organization announced that Catholic Medical Partners Accountable Care, its ACO organization, and Catholic Medical Partners, the parent organization, have both earned Accountable Care Organization Accreditation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. The organizations are the first in New York and eighth in the nation to achieve this honor.

Catholic Medical Partners Accountable Care, a network of nearly 700 local physicians and Catholic Health, achieved Level 3 Accreditation, the highest level possible, for demonstrating strong performance across the triple aim of better experience, improved quality, and lower cost. Catholic Medical Partners, a network of nearly 1,000 local physicians and Catholic Health, achieved Level 2 accreditation for demonstrating a broad range of capabilities of an Accountable Care Organization. There is not a regional collaborative available for Catholic Medical Partners to publicly report quality and cost information. As a result, Level 2 is the highest accreditation the organization could achieve at this time.

“High quality, patient-centered care and value are not mutually exclusive and healthcare providers need to be fully committed to both principles,” said Dennis R. Horrigan, president and CEO, Catholic Medical Partners. “Our NCQA ACO Accreditation is further evidence of Catholic Medical Partners’ leading role in transforming healthcare in Western New York.”

In 2012, Catholic Medical Partners Accountable Care was one of the first 27 organizations in the country selected to participate in the federal Medicare Shared Savings program. According to quality and financial results issued late last year by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the organization achieved the third highest level of savings among all 220 Medicare ACOs in the country. Catholic Medical Partners Accountable Care reduced healthcare expenditures for its Medicare population by seven percent from the national benchmark, saving more than \$27 million, while also demonstrating high levels of quality in areas including patient safety, care coordination, preventive health, and care for at-risk populations.

The close relationship between Catholic Medical Partners physicians and Catholic Health has propelled each organization's success under the accountable care model.

"The NCQA accreditation is yet another validation of our shared vision for what healthcare in Western New York can and should be," said Joe McDonald, Catholic Health president and CEO. "As the healthcare environment continues to evolve, we will continue to work together to keep the patient at the center of everything we do."

"Each day, patients enter the healthcare system from myriad entry points," added Michael Edbauer, DO, chief medical officer at Catholic Medical Partners and chief clinical officer at Catholic Health. "Clinical improvement is central to our work. Along with that comes how physicians communicate with patients and with each other, how we coordinate with our hospital partners and other providers across multiple care settings, and how we identify and address potential barriers to care, including social, cultural and economic barriers."

NCQA ACO Accreditation is a voluntary review process that evaluates organizations' abilities to deliver coordinated, patient centered care and be accountable for improving clinical quality, enhancing patient experience, and reducing cost. Accreditation surveys include a rigorous evaluation of 14 standards and 65 elements. The standards are set high to encourage ACOs to continuously enhance their quality.

"By earning NCQA ACO Accreditation, Catholic Medical Partners has demonstrated to payers and other purchasers that it has met the challenging requirements designed to show the efficiency, integration and high quality expected of an Accountable Care Organization," remarked Margaret E. O'Kane, president, NCQA. "NCQA ACO Accreditation also shows patients and providers that Catholic Medical Partners is prepared to deliver on the promise of better care on all these dimensions."

About Catholic Medical Partners

A network of nearly 1,000 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 information, visit www.CatholicMedicalPartners.org.

About NCQA

NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA's Web site (www.ncqa.org) contains information to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices.