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Gulf Coast Medical Center Receives NCQA Recognition for Patient-Centered Medical Home

Port Richey, Fla., February 7, 2012 - Gulf Coast Medical Center announced today that both of its centers and all of its primary care physicians have been awarded Level 3 Recognition by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Physician Practice Connections[®] - Patient Centered Medical Home[™] (PPC-PCMH). GCMC is one of a few multi-specialty group practices in West Pasco to receive such distinction.

The Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is a model of health care delivery that aims to improve the quality and efficiency of care. PPC-PCMH identifies practices that promote partnerships between individual patients and their personal physicians, instead of treating patient care as the sum of several episodic office visits. Each patient's care is tended to by physician-lead care teams, who provide for all the patient's health care needs and coordinate treatments across the health care system. Medical home clinicians demonstrate the benchmarks of patient-centered care, including open scheduling, proactive management of patients with chronic conditions or diseases, expanded hours and appropriate use of proven health information systems. Following the PPC-PCMH model will result in improving care quality and lowering costs by increasing access to more efficient, more coordinated care. By avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits, these early results are producing savings for payers, purchasers, and patients.

"The patient-centered medical home promises to improve health and health care," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane. "The active, ongoing relationship between a patient and a clinician in medical homes fosters an all-too-rare goal in care: Staying healthy and preventing illness in the first place. PPC-PCMH recognition shows that Gulf Coast Medical Center has tools, systems, and resources to provide its patients with the right care at the right time."

Utilizing electronic medical records (EMR) for over 10 years, GCMC has stabilized the core for this new model of care.

“For the past two years, we have been focused on perfecting the PCMH by refining the procedures, protocols and standards already in place within our organization. Using the EMR, our physicians can immediately access a patient’s chart whether in the office or at home. This connection improves the management of patient data, benchmarking and patient tracking and the coordination of patient care; therefore limiting medication errors and duplication of testing. It is a terrific benefit to everyone as it enables our center’s physicians to communicate electronically with each other as well as with their patients,” said Gulf Coast Medical Center’s owner, Dr. Steven Strobbe.

To receive Level 3 recognition, which is valid for three years and is the highest recognition possible, Gulf Coast Medical Center demonstrated the ability to meet the program’s key elements embodying characteristics of the medical home. The standards are aligned with the joint principals of the Patient-Centered Medical Home established with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Osteopathic Association.

Dr. Steven Strobbe also stated, “We are extremely honored to receive this recognition. The Gulf Coast Medical Center team has worked hard for this acknowledgement. Our organization will continue the pursuit of excellence and management of high quality outcomes while lowering the overall cost of care.”

With two locations in Port Richey, Fla., privately-owned Gulf Coast Medical Center is a leader in out-patient multi-specialty medical services. Serving the West Pasco area since 1982, The Joint Commission, ACR and COLA accredited facilities combine comfort with technology to offer patients an exceptional medical experience.

For more information about GCMC, visit www.gcmcl.com.

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