

OPEN DOOR FAMILY MEDICAL CENTERS RECEIVES MAJOR RECOGNITION FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE

Lindsay Farrell, President & CEO of Open Door Family Medical Centers has announced that the federally qualified community health center has recently received the highest level Recognition (Level 3) as a Patient-Centered Medical Home™ (PPC-PCMH™) by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). This distinguishes Open Door from medical practices across the nation as less than 2% are presently able to achieve this advanced standing.

This recognition program was developed in collaboration with four medical societies, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American Osteopathic Association as well as the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative, a coalition that includes IBM and other large employers. Its aim is to significantly improve care for patients in America's primary care practices.

Patient-centered medical homes encompass the following seven principles:

- Each patient receives care from a personal physician;
- The personal physician leads a team of providers who are responsible for a patient's ongoing care;
- The personal physician is responsible for the "whole person";
- A patient's care is coordinated across the health system and community;
- Quality and safety are hallmarks of the practice;
- Enhanced access to care is offered through open scheduling, expanded hours, and new care options such as group visits; and
- The payment structure recognizes the enhanced value provided to patients.

The NCQA requires practices to document how they meet nine specific requirements that demonstrate qualification as a "medical home". Practices must apply for recognition every three years.

"While we are very pleased to have achieved this level of recognition, Open Door must do even more. We must educate our patients and the community about patient-centered medical homes and why they make a difference to us all," said Ms. Farrell. "Ultimately we believe this model of care can improve the quality of America's health care by reducing fragmentation and enhancing coordination. Large employers like IBM certainly understand how important this is to reducing ever escalating health care costs and have played a major role in advancing the model."

About the National Committee for Quality Assurance

NCQA is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to assessing and reporting on the quality of managed care plans, managed behavioral healthcare organizations, preferred provider organizations, new health plans, physician organizations, credentials verification organizations, disease management programs and other health-related programs. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors that includes employers, consumer and labor representatives, health plans, quality experts, policy makers and representatives from organized medicine. The mission of NCQA is to improve the quality of health care.

About Open Door Family Medical Centers

Open Door serves a vast multi-cultural community and has provided top quality medical, dental care and social services to the Westchester community, particularly the economically disadvantaged, for 38 years. The organization has four centers in Westchester located in Ossining, Port Chester, Mt. Kisco and Sleepy Hollow. In addition, Open Door operates School-Based Health Centers in Port Chester at The Edison Elementary School, Kennedy Magnet School, Port Chester Middle School and Port Chester High School. In 2009, approximately 41,000 patients were treated at Open Door, making nearly 200,000 patient visits. Over 12,500 children were treated during that same year. Funding for the federally qualified community health center comes from local, state and federal grants as well as private foundations and individuals.