



**For Immediate Release**

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**Aquidneck Medical Associates Earns Highest NCQA Rating  
for New Patient-Centered Medical Home**

*Local primary care practice first in Rhode Island to achieve  
national organization's Level 3 recognition*

**Newport, R.I. (February 24, 2010)** – Aquidneck Medical Associates (AMA) today announced that the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has recognized them as a Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), making AMA the first in Rhode Island to achieve the national organization's highest designation for using systematic, patient-centered and coordinated care management processes.

NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations, and provides health care quality information in order to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices. A PCMH is an innovative care model that replaces the reactive, episodic care often practiced today with proactive, coordinated care designed to improve patients' health and moderate long-term healthcare costs.

“We're extremely gratified that the NCQA has recognized the high quality of medical care being provided in our new PCMH,” said David S. Gorelick, M.D., AMA. “In collaboration with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI), we've spent the last several years investing in and reforming our practice to provide better, more comprehensive care for our patients.”

“Aquidneck Medical Associates is at the forefront of real healthcare reform,” said James E. Purcell, president and CEO of BCBSRI, “and BCBSRI is proud to have partnered with them to improve our healthcare delivery system. Innovative new methods of improving quality of care, such as the PCMH, will ultimately result in a healthier Rhode Island, and as we all begin to

live healthier lives, the cost of healthcare—and health insurance—will moderate, providing employers and individuals with much-needed economic relief. We congratulate AMA for establishing a quality PCMH practice that has earned this prestigious recognition from NCQA.”

In January, the Aquidneck Island-based, ten physician primary care practice announced the launch of its innovative new PCMH care model, becoming the first practice on Aquidneck Island to operate as a PCMH.

To facilitate AMA’s adoption of the PCMH model, BCBSRI provided partial funding through their Quality Counts program, which helped AMA implement electronic health records. The health insurer is also offering practices pay-for-performance compensation for achieving specific quality of care performance targets for improving healthcare processes and patient outcomes.

According to Dr. Gorelick, the PCMH practices being adopted by AMA are already producing tangible benefits.

“The process of how we see patients, how we keep their medical files, how we follow-up with them, how we coordinate care with their specialists, and how we recommend tests and procedures, for example, has been greatly improved,” said Dr. Gorelick. “For patients with complex medical issues, such as diabetes, our PCMH will help these individuals become more involved in their day-by-day care and stay connected with their treatment plans. With a PCMH, their health should improve, and never fall victim to uncoordinated, fragmented care.”

NCQA evaluates nine Physician Practice Connections®-Patient Centered Medical Home™ standards, including 10 “must-pass” elements, which can result in one of three levels of recognition. Level 3 is the highest level of recognition. The PPC-PCMH program reflects the input of the American College of Physicians, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Osteopathic Association, and others.

*Aquidneck Medical Associates has provided quality primary care services to Rhode Islanders for more than 50 years. With offices located in Newport and Portsmouth, Aquidneck Medical Associates’ physicians specialize in internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology and surgery.*

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