



NHHS...in the news...

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Newport clinics recognized for patient-centered care

WASHINGTON, DC—Newport Hospital's two clinics received national recognition last week for their patient care as rural health clinics.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) announced that Family Medicine Newport and Family Health Center Newport of Newport received NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Recognition for using

evidence-based, patient-centered processes that focus on highly coordinated care and long-term, participative relationships.

The NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home is a model of primary care that combines teamwork and information technology to improve care, improve patients' experience of care and reduce costs. Medical homes foster ongoing partnerships between patients and their

personal clinicians, instead of approaching care as the sum of episodic office visits.

Each patient's care is overseen by clinician-led care teams that coordinate treatment across the health care system. Research shows that medical homes can lead to higher quality and lower costs, and can improve patient and provider reported

experiences of care.

"NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition raises the bar in defining high-quality care by emphasizing access, health information technology and coordinated care focused on patients," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane.

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CLINICS: 'We are striving to be the point of first contact'

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"Recognition shows that Family Medicine Newport and Family Health Center Newport have the tools, systems and resources to provide its patients with the right care, at the right time."

Tom Wilbur, Newport Hospital and Health Services (NHHS) CEO, stated, "Coordinated, patient-focused care has always been the goal for our medical providers and the national certification of our two rural health clinics provides external validation for the primary care focus we

are trying to achieve."

He indicated that he was proud of the hard work and effort it took the entire care provider and support staff teams to achieve the designation. NHHS Clinic Manager Pam Lee, Denise Weiss, RN, NHHS Clinic Care Coordinator, Dr. Geoff Jones, NHHS Clinic Medical Director, and Christina Wagar, NHHS Director of Primary and Ancillary Care, championed the efforts to complete the certification requirements.

"Patient Centered Medical Home certification is a way in which we can formalize what

we already do – provide good, patient centered, holistic care to the entire community," Dr. Jones said. "We are striving to be the point of first contact for everyone in our community that is in need of medical care, and becoming certified as a PCMH is a big part of that goal."

"Newport's work to coordinate and integrate care across your community is an outstanding example of how rural communities can innovate and deliver top notch care," said Jacqueline Barton True, Washington State Hospital Association Director of

Rural Health Programs.

To earn recognition, which is valid for three years, the Newport Hospital rural health clinics demonstrated the ability to meet the program's key elements, embodying characteristics of the medical home.

NCQA standards aligned with the joint principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home established with the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Osteopathic Association.