



One-of-a-kind services
for one-of-a-kind people.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 24, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Honor Martin, R.N. VP of Clinical Services
(716) 505-5604

**ASPIRE HEALTH CENTER EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR
PATIENT-CENTERED CARE**

*NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home™ standards emphasize enhanced care through
patient-clinician partnership*

Cheektowaga, NY—The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) today announced that Aspire Health Center in Cheektowaga has 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 and improve the patient's experience of care. 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. "Recognition shows that Aspire Health Center has the tools, systems, and resources to provide its patients with the right care, at the right time."

Aspire President and CEO, Thomas Sy, recently discussed the changes that began taking place at the Health Center over five years ago.

"We recognized that to best meet the primary care medical needs of the patients we serve," he explained. "Our health center needed to be redesigned around the principles of a patient-centered medical home. We have received PCMH recognition twice before, but this recent three-year accreditation was against the more difficult and stringent 2014 standards."

To earn recognition, which is valid for three years, Aspire Health Center 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.

Sy further discussed that the recognition validates Aspire's Health Center continuous improvements in care delivery, care coordination, and patient access and as payment models are evolving to target PCMH practices at the regional and state level, being an accredited PCMH further enhances Aspire's reputation for excellence and ability to expand services.

Honor Martin, R.N. Aspire VP of Clinical Services, discussed how the principles of PCMH aligns with the comprehensive practices that are in place at Aspire's Health Center.

"At the Health Center our staff and providers are engaging patients in a positive and proactive relationship," she explained. "We are enlisting patients in personal goal-setting and encouraging participation in disease prevention strategies. Being recognized for achieving these standards of care is a great accomplishment and articulates clinical excellence in our practice."

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 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA's Web site (ncqa.org) contains information to help consumers, employers, and others make more informed health care choices.

About Aspire of WNY

Aspire of WNY has been a leader in providing innovative, person-centered programs and services for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities for nearly 70 years. Visit www.aspirewny.org or call (716) 505-5830 to learn more about our personalized assistance empowering individuals to achieve their full potential and live as independently as possible.

###