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TOP PERFORMING PHYSICIAN GROUPS IN CALIFORNIA HONORED BY INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION

Groups from Eight Regions Recognized for Top Performance in Clinical Quality, Patient Satisfaction, and Use of Information Technology

OAKLAND, Calif., Oct. 5, 2006 – California’s top performing physician groups were identified today by the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) and recognized for high performance on important health care quality measures, including preventive care and chronic care management, patient satisfaction, and use of information technology to support patient management and care.

Of 228 physician groups participating in IHA’s Pay for Performance (P4P) program, those that scored in the top 20 percent overall were selected for the honor, and included 46 top performers in eight regions, comprising 17 northern and 29 southern California groups.

The top-rated groups by region (listed in alphabetical order) are:

- **Bay Area:**
 - Affinity Medical Group
 - Brown & Toland Medical Group
 - Camino Medical Group
 - Hill Physicians Medical Group – East Bay
 - John Muir Physician Network
 - Mills-Peninsula Medical Group
 - Palo Alto Medical Foundation (Palo Alto Division)
 - Santa Clara County IPA (SCCIPA)
 - The Permanente Medical Group – East Bay
 - The Permanente Medical Group – North Bay
 - The Permanente Medical Group – Peninsula

- **Central Coast**
 - Buena Ventura Medical Group
 - Sansum Clinic
- **Central Valley**
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – Kern County
 - The Permanente Medical Group – Central Valley
- **Inland Empire**
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – Fontana
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – Riverside
- **Los Angeles**
 - Cedars-Sinai Health Associates IPA (unit of Cedars-Sinai Medical Care Foundation)
 - Cedars-Sinai Medical Group (unit of Cedars-Sinai Medical Care Foundation)
 - Facey Medical Foundation
 - HealthCare Partners Medical Group
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – Baldwin Park
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – Bellflower
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – Los Angeles
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – Panorama
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – South Bay/Harbor City
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – West Los Angeles
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – Woodland Hills
 - UCLA Medical Group
- **Orange**
 - Bristol Park Medical Group, Inc.
 - Edinger Medical Group
 - Greater Newport Physicians
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – Orange County
 - Pioneer Medical Group
 - St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group (Yorba Park)
 - St. Jude Heritage Medical Group
- **Sacramento/North**
 - Hill Physicians Medical Group – Solano
 - Mercy Medical Group/CHW Medical Foundation
 - Sutter Medical Group
 - Sutter West Medical Group
 - The Permanente Medical Group – North Valley
- **San Diego**
 - Southern California Permanente Medical Group – San Diego

- Scripps Clinic Medical Group
- Sharp Community Medical Group IPA
- Sharp Mission Park Medical Group
- Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group

IHA's P4P program is the largest physician incentive program in the United States. The goal of the program is to enable physician groups to receive financial rewards from participating health plans based on quality measures for clinical care, patient experience, and use of information technology.

"Quality measured against evidence-based guidelines is the cornerstone of effective healthcare," said Wells Shoemaker, MD, and Medical Director of the California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG). "I applaud these top performers who have raised the bar for other physician groups in California."

Today's announcement is based on an analysis of the 2005 P4P measurement year, in which 228 physician groups participated, with The Permanente Medical Group (Kaiser Permanente's Northern California physician groups) and Southern California Permanente Medical Group (Kaiser Permanente's Southern California physician groups) reporting results for the first time. With the addition of Kaiser, data from approximately 40,000 physicians who care for more than 12 million individuals were tallied to calculate which physician groups made the top 20% cut. Seven major health plans (Aetna Healthcare of California, Blue Cross of California, Blue Shield of California, CIGNA HealthCare of California, Health Net of California, PacifiCare of California, and Western Health Advantage) participate in rewarding participating physicians with P4P incentive payments.

In July, IHA announced across-the-board improvements by physician groups on P4P evidence-based clinical care measures, as well as increased use of information technology for activities such as prescribing, monitoring lab results, preventive and chronic care reminders, and electronic messaging. Compared to 2004, physician groups reported that in 2005 they screened about 60,000 more women for cervical cancer, tested nearly 12,000 more individuals for diabetes, and administered approximately 30,000 more childhood immunizations.

“This means that across California, children are more likely to get the immunizations they need, adults are more likely to get screened for cancers and diabetes, and chronic conditions are more likely to be managed. The patients are the real winners,” said Tom Williams, executive director of IHA. “These physician groups have distinguished themselves by providing care for their patients at the highest levels compared to their peers on comparable benchmarks.”

Names of the top performing groups will be posted on IHA’s website at www.iha.org. Due to some methodology changes and timing issues, the winners will be posted on the IHA site this year, rather than on the Office of the Patient Advocate website, <http://www.opa.ca.gov>. OPA will provide a link to the IHA website to ensure that consumers will have easy access to the information.

The Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) is a not-for-profit statewide collaborative leadership group of California health plans, physician groups, and health care systems, plus academic, consumer, purchaser, pharmaceutical and technology representatives that promotes quality improvement, accountability, and affordability for the benefit of all California consumers through special projects, policy innovation, and education.

www.iha.org