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NORTH MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CLINIC PHYSICIANS ACHIEVE NATIONAL DIABETES RECOGNITION

IUKA, Miss.—Brian Bagwell, D.O., physician at Iuka Medical Clinic and medical director at the North Mississippi Medical Center-Iuka Emergency Department, recently received recognition for providing quality care to diabetes patients from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

The Diabetes Physician Recognition Program was designed to improve the quality of care that diabetic patients receive by recognizing physicians who deliver quality diabetes care, and by motivating other physicians to document and improve their delivery of diabetes care.

Several other physicians with North Mississippi Medical Clinics and North Mississippi Medical Center's Family Medicine Residency Program were recognized.

"This latest achievement is just one more testament to the kind of quality physicians we have in our health care organization," said David Barber, president of North Mississippi Medical Clinics. "We, here at North Mississippi Health Services, and the entire region, should feel very proud and fortunate to know that this level of expertise is available right here in our communities."

To receive recognition, which is valid for three years, physicians must submit data that demonstrates performance that meets the program's key diabetes care measures. These measures include eye exams, blood pressure tests, nutrition therapy and patient satisfaction, among others. When people with diabetes receive quality care as outlined by these measures, they are less likely to suffer complications such as heart attacks, stroke, blindness, kidney disease and amputations.

"For a person with diabetes, the right physician can make the difference between living with diabetes as opposed to suffering from diabetes," said John Buse, M.D., president, Medicine and Science, American Diabetes Association. "Physicians who earn recognition through the Diabetes Physician Recognition Program have an established

track record of providing excellent diabetes care. The list of recognized doctors is the first place to look if you or a loved one has been diagnosed with diabetes.”

Diabetes is a serious disease that affects the body’s ability to produce or respond properly to insulin, a hormone that allows blood sugar to enter the cells of the body and be used for energy. An estimated 16 million Americans have diabetes; it is the sixth-leading cause of death by disease in the U.S. and it has no cure.

NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality, NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations and recognizes physicians in key clinical areas. NCQA’s Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA is committed to providing health care quality information through the Web, media and data licensing agreements in order to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices.

The American Diabetes Association is the nation’s leading voluntary health organization supporting diabetes research, information and advocacy. Founded in 1940, the association provides services to more than 800 communities.

For a list of physicians recognized by the Diabetes Physician Recognition Program or for more information, visit www.ncqa.org/dprp or call (202) 955-1721.