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## **NATIONAL RECOGNITION GRANTED TO HOMETOWN HEALTH CENTER**

*Schenectady Safety-Net Sets Quality Standard with "Next Level" Healthcare*

**SCHENECTADY, NY** — Hometown Health Center (HHC) today announced that it has been officially recognized as a **Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH)** for delivering accessible, comprehensive and family-centered primary care that seeks to reduce avoidable healthcare costs. The special designation was granted by *the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)* to HHC and its providers who collectively care for a primary care population of nearly 15,000 children and adults. Hometown received "**Level 3**" designation, the highest ranking, which will qualify the Schenectady practice for increased Medicaid reimbursements every year.

"This is a real honor for Hometown and its clinicians, but more importantly, it is a true benefit for the community we serve," said Joe Gambino, CEO, Hometown Health Center. "We have made significant investments in our primary care service delivery, care coordination and technology – with one goal in mind – to make Hometown Health Center a medical home that children and families can depend on."

The patient-centered medical home is a model of care that focuses on a strong and meaningful provider-patient relationship. PCMH promotes long-term coordinated health and healing instead of more expensive and inefficient episodic care.

"A medical home model of care underscores accountable care," said David Skory, M.D., Medical Director, Hometown Health Center. "We understand that to be patient-centered in practice obligates us to be collaborative, coordinated and efficient. Hometown has laid the foundation to meet this charge."

The NCQA released its new PCMH Standards of Care in early 2011 – the program designates high-quality primary care practices as patient-centered medical homes. Hometown Health Center is one of a limited number of community health centers statewide to meet the new quality standards and receive the highest level of recognition.

"This is milestone for Hometown," said William Faubion, HHC Board Chairman. "The services offered at the health center are critical in our community, and now we know the quality of care provided has set a standard."

To be recognized as a NCQA patient-centered medical home, healthcare providers must meet a number of safety and quality standards. In addition, HHC offers improved patient education and learning opportunities, care coordination, an evidence-based approach to understanding chronic illness, performance reporting and assessments.

### **About Hometown**

Hometown Health Center, located at 1044 State Street, is the only not-for-profit, federally qualified health center in Schenectady County, and is the primary care provider of choice for nearly 15,000 local residents. The health center offers family medicine, pediatric, obstetrical, gynecological, podiatry, specialty care, mental health, on-site pharmacy services and comprehensive dental care.

### **ABOUT NCQA**

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is dedicated to improving health care quality. Since its founding in 1990, NCQA has been a central figure in driving improvement throughout the health care system. 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 for consumers, purchasers, health care providers and researchers.

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