



NCQA Physician Recognition Programs: As a patient, why are they important?

February 2010

For many patients, especially those with a chronic illness like diabetes, choosing the right physician can sometimes be a difficult decision. Research indicates that care for the same illness can vary from practice to practice, or even from physician to physician. So, choosing the right physician is an important decision and patients should expect their medical care to be consistent with the best medical evidence available.

One of your best resources for information is available through organizations like the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). NCQA is a private, non-profit organization that evaluates physicians and other health care organizations based on strict quality criteria. They are committed to providing health care quality information through the web and the media in order to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices.

NCQA has physician recognition programs in diabetes, back pain, heart/stroke and the medical home. These programs were developed to help physicians and practices support the delivery of high-quality care. They are built on evidenced-based, nationally recognized clinical standards of care. NCQA has partnered with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) to develop the diabetes recognition program for physicians. For a physician to achieve diabetes recognition status they must show they regularly achieve good control of blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and more. Achieving recognition status is not easily attainable; good outcomes generally require a shared commitment from a responsive and engaged patient. Achieving NCQA designation is not required and physicians are not compensated more than those who do not achieve recognition. These physicians have voluntarily stepped forward to systematically measure the quality of their care against national standards.

Resources and information available from organizations, like the NCQA, are made available to

patients to help them make a more informed decision when choosing a physician. At Esse Health, one of our values is Excellence, specifically excellence in the level of quality care we are providing to our patients. All of our physicians are currently working towards NCQA physician recognition. Currently twelve Esse Health physicians have achieved NCQA recognition. For more information about these physicians, please click the links below.

NCQA Diabetes Recognition

[Dr. Susan Adams](#)
[Dr. Scott Anderson](#)
[Dr. Joyce Boehmer](#)
[Dr. Kathleen Brunts](#)
[Dr. Thomas Hastings](#)
[Dr. Stephen Knapp](#)
[Dr. Sean McLaughlin](#)
[Dr. Jennifer Sewing](#)
[Dr. David Shaw](#)
[Dr. Elizabeth Tracy](#)
[Dr. Ronald Wepprich](#)
[Dr. Charles Willey](#)

NCQA Heart/Stroke Physician Recognition

[Dr. Thomas Hastings](#)

For more information about the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), please visit www.ncqa.org.

www.essehealth.com