



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 22, 2011

FOR MORE INFO: Claire Leffler, 314.571.6300 (office),
314.324.3036 (cell) or cleffler@wearehughes.com
Andrea Saeger, Esse Health, 314.851.1053

NEWS RELEASE

Forty-Eight Esse Health Providers Achieve Recognition by NCQA

ST. LOUIS – Esse Health is proud to announce that 48 of its health providers, including physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, have now received Recognition by the National Committee for Quality Assurance in the Diabetes Recognition Program.

NCQA's Diabetes Recognition Program recognizes clinicians who have met standards demonstrating delivery of high-quality care to patients with diabetes. Clinicians who achieve DRP Recognition show their peers, patients and others in the Diabetes community that they are part of an elite group that is publicly recognized for its skill in providing the highest-level diabetes care.

"Diabetes is an important topic for our entire staff as we see an increased percentage of our patient population being affected by this disease," said Dr. Kathleen Brunts, an Internal Medicine physician at Esse Health's Richmond Heights location. "Our providers constantly strive to educate their patients on the best ways for treating and preventing diabetes through not only patient visits, but participating in diabetes expos and leading free 'Taking Care of Diabetes' classes."

The list of providers who received this recognition include: Dr. Susan Adams, Renee Amato, PA, Dr. Scott Anderson, Carla Moore-Beckerle, NP, Dr. Joyce Boehmer, Dr. Kathleen Brunts, Dr. Robert Byrne, Dr. Curt Calcaterra, Dr. Kathleen Cizek, Stacie Detmer, NP, Dr. James Ebel, Dr. Michael Fedak, Dr. Brett Foersterling, Marian Gakes, PA, Dr. Robert Geekie, Dr. Todd Hammond, Dr. Thomas Hastings, Lisa Hawley, NP, Dr. Mark Irwin, Dr. Stephen Knapp, Dr. Leslie Launch, Dr. Gary Maassen, Dr. Deborah McDermott, Dr. Sean McLaughlin, Dr. Audrey Montooth, Dr. Steven Nester, Cindy Perkins, NP, Dr. Irwin Plisco, Dr. Robert Pozzi, Dr. John Rice, Dr. Don Richardson, Dr. Brad Ringhofer, Dr. Carol Robinson, Dr. Janelle Roethemeyer, Dr. Robert Saitz, Karen Scaglione, Dr. Colette Schmidt-Turner, Dr. Jennifer Sewing, Dr. David Shaw, Dr. James Speiser, Dr. Elizabeth Stewart, Dr. Elizabeth Tracy, Dr. Eldon Trame, Dr. Stanley Vriezelaar, Dr. Ronald Wepprich, Julie Wieggers, NP, Marva Williams, NP, and Josie Zuckerman, PA. For bios and photos of each of the providers, visit http://www.essehealth.com/our_providers.php.

"NCQA's Diabetes Recognition Program honors the vanguard, professionals using the best science to help patients cope with one of modern life's most pervasive illnesses," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane. "I commend

these Esse Health physicians for providing high quality care and for going the extra mile to help people with diabetes.”

About Esse Health:

Esse Health is a St. Louis-based physician group that strives to improve the overall well-being of its patients through patient education, lifestyle modification and prevention. With 28 locations throughout the St. Louis and Metro East area, Esse Health’s services include asthma, allergy and immunology, family medicine, internal medicine, nutrition, pediatrics and radiology. Esse Health is recognized as a leader in using technology in health care and physician accountability for both quality and cost-of-care. For more information on Esse Health, visit www.essehealth.com.