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## National Committee for Quality Assurance Recognizes NH Community Health Centers



*Ed Shanshala, CEO  
Ammonoosuc Health  
Services*

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Bi-State Primary Care Association is pleased to announce three of its Community Health Center members in New Hampshire were awarded the highest level of recognition for Physician Practice Connections® – Patient Centered Medical Home™ from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). The recognition reflects the input of the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Osteopathic Association.

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc., Lamprey Health Care, and Mid-State Health Center all received Level 3 distinction from the NCQA. “The Community Health Centers received the highest quality rating for creating practices designed to achieve healthy outcomes for their patients, far beyond the treatment of isolated symptoms that is so common in approaches to healthcare. The three health centers have successfully integrated primary and specialty medical care, oral health, and behavioral health to provide a comprehensive approach to patient care. They are on the cutting edge, creating a model of best practices in clinical health care. We are very proud of our NH Community Health Center members; they are a tremendous asset to their communities,” remarked Tess Stack Kuenning, executive director of Bi-State Primary Care Association.



*Ann Peters, CEO  
Lamprey Health Center*

In 2008, the three Lamprey Health Care clinics in Newmarket, Raymond and Nashua provided health care services for 16,000 residents; Ammonoosuc Community Health Services of Littleton, Warren, Woodsville, Whitefield, and Franconia provide health care for 8,714 individuals; and Mid-State Health Center’s two clinics in Plymouth and Bristol treated more than 9,500 patients. Among all three Community Health Centers, 30-50 percent of the patients carry private health insurance and others are treated on a sliding scale based on income, or through the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

The “Patient Centered Medical Home” is a model for care provided by physician practices that seeks to strengthen the physician-patient relationship by replacing episodic care based on illnesses and patient complaints with coordinated care. The Physician Recognition Programs identify physicians who deliver superior care using standards firmly rooted in medical evidence. Over time, this model holds significant promise for reduced costs and better health care quality.

A list of Community Health Centers in New Hampshire and Vermont can be found on the Bi-State Primary Care Association website: [www.bistatepca.org](http://www.bistatepca.org).



*Sharon Beaty, CEO  
Mid-State Health Center*

With offices in Concord, NH, and Montpelier, VT, Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works with federal, state, and regional health policy organizations and policymakers, foundations, and payers to develop strategies, policies, and programs that promote and sustain community-based, primary health care services.

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