

Business

Physician Associates recognized as Community Leader

Physician Associates, one of Central Florida's largest physician practice groups, was presented with the Community Leadership Award by the Florida Health Care Coalition (FHCC). The FHCC represents two million people in promoting quality health care in Central and South Florida.

Physician Associates received the award primarily due to its doctors completing a stringent certification process through the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). The process is considered one of the most rigorous in the health care industry. The majority of Physician Associates family medicine and internal medicine

doctors are now NCQA certified for diabetes, asthma and heart disease.

In addition, FHCC recognized Physician Associates for taking a lead role in fully implementing electronic health records in all 15 offices. Recognizing the enormous benefits of electronic health records to its patients, Physician Associates is investing \$2.1 million in the technology.

"This is the type of leadership we must have to improve the quality of care and the overall health of our community," said Becky Cherney, president and CEO, Florida Healthcare Coalition.

"Physician Associates be-

lieves in providing great health care and service to our patients," said Dennis Buhning, CEO, Physician Associates. "Working through the NCQA certification process and embracing electronic health records showcases just two of the many ways our doctor-owned company is looking toward the future in medical care."

Physician Associates includes more than 75 doctors practicing family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, podiatry and sleep disorder. With 15 locations, including Ocoee and Dr. Phillips, Physician Associates treats more than 350,000 patients annually.



Gathered as Florida Health Care Coalition (FHCC) honors Physician Associates are (l-r): in front, Becky Cherney, president/CEO, FHCC, Carolyn Aldorfer, FHCC chair; in back, the Physician Associates board of directors, CEO Dennis Buhning, Erik Walker, M.D., Martin Derrow, M.D., Howard Peltson, M.D., and Robert Bowles, M.D.