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NORWICH, GRISWOLD HEALTH CENTERS RECOGNIZED

Norwich - United Community & Family Services announced Tuesday that its Norwich and Griswold Health Centers have been recognized as Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Homes by the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

The NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home 2011 standards emphasize the use of systematic, patient-centered, coordinated care that supports access, communication and patient involvement, UCFS said in a news release. The recognition, which is valid for three years, is awarded in three levels. To receive Level 3 recognition, UCFS demonstrated the ability to meet the program's key criteria for a medical home: written standards and measurement for patient access and communication; electronic charting tools to organize clinical information; electronic prescription management; evidence-based care management for chronic conditions; patient self-management support; systematic tracking of test results and referrals; measurement and reporting of clinical and service performance; and the availability of an interactive website that allows for electronic care management support, UCFS said.

"The NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home is a model of 21st century primary care that combines access, teamwork and technology to deliver quality care and improve health," said NCQA President Margaret O'Kane. "NCQA's PCMH 2011 Recognition shows that UCFS has tools, systems and resources to provide their patients with the right care at the right time."

Dr. Ramindra Walia, chief medical officer at UCFS, said the clinic has demonstrated that it is committed to reducing health care costs, improving quality of care and keeping patients at the center of the practice to ensure that the care they receive is of the highest caliber.

In addition to the recognition, UCFS also announced expanded hours at its Edward & Mary Lord Family Health Center at 47 Town St. The dental and medical practices are open on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Weekend, early morning, same-day and evening hours are also available. To schedule an appointment, visit www.ucfs.org or call (860) 892-7042.
