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Hill Physicians Medical Group Named Among Top Medical Groups by Integrated Healthcare Association for Fourth Consecutive Year

Selection Based on Hill Physicians' Performance in Clinical Quality, Patient Satisfaction, and Use of Information Technology

San Ramon, CA (October 8, 2007)—Hill Physicians Medical Group, one of the largest independent medical groups in the U.S., was again named among the top performing medical groups in Northern California by the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA). This is the fourth consecutive year that Hill Physicians has received this honor.

The best performing groups were selected from 235 California practices, representing over 40,000 physicians, which participate in IHA's statewide Pay for Performance (P4P) program. Over 12 million individuals receive care from these groups. Medical groups whose performance was in the top 20 percent statewide were selected for recognition as top performers. Hill Physicians was honored for demonstrating top performance on important health quality measures, including preventative care and chronic care management, patient satisfaction, and use of information technology to support care.

“We are proud to again be named among the top medical groups in California,” said Steve McDermott, CEO of Hill Physicians. “This honor underscores the value—both clinically and economically—of our continuing investment in clinical initiatives and in the latest information technologies to streamline administration, improve communication with health plans and providers, and enhance clinical care.”

The P4P program compares physician groups against 14 measures of clinically recommended preventive care (e.g., breast cancer and cholesterol screening) and chronic care (e.g., asthma and diabetes). Hill Physicians scored highly in all clinical measures, but particularly well in breast cancer screening, diabetes care, and cervical cancer screening. Patient satisfaction is determined through a mailed survey that asks consumers to rate physicians on communication, the timeliness of care and service, access to specialists, and overall satisfaction with the doctor and the care they received.

“A key driver of IHA scores is the adoption of information technology,” said McDermott. “Several studies, including the Institute of Medicine’s ‘Fostering Rapid Advances in Health,’ have shown that investments in systems like electronic medical records (EMR), centralized patient registries, and decision support tools substantially improve medical outcomes. This is mirrored by our own results. On average, medical groups like Hill Physicians, which scored high on IT measures, also scored significantly higher on clinical results than groups with little or no IT investment.”

About Hill Physicians Medical Group

Hill Physicians Medical Group is Northern California's largest independent practice association (IPA), serving 335,000 patients between San Francisco, the East Bay, Solano, Sacramento, and Stockton. Hill Physicians is a recognized leader in quality and innovation in healthcare. Committed to supporting healthy lifestyles, the company offers its enrollees extensive health education services including wellness classes, health screenings, and self-help through its online health information portal hosted at www.hillphysicians.com.

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