



**Contact:** Dan Robinson  
**Phone:** 925.327.6731  
**Email:** [dan.robinson@hpmg.com](mailto:dan.robinson@hpmg.com)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Affiliation Between Hill Physicians and UCSF Medical Group Completed**

SAN RAMON, CA (January 5, 2010) -- The doctors of UCSF Medical Group are now affiliated with Hill Physicians, following the successful completion of a transition plan that was announced in August 2009. The affiliation became effective January 1, 2010. Leaders at Hill Physicians and UCSF say the new year signals a positive and important change for San Franciscans.

“This marks a milestone,” said Steve McDermott, CEO of Hill Physicians Medical Group. “Our existing provider network, in combination with the doctors from UCSF and many of the physicians associated with St. Mary’s Medical Center and Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, creates a robust, integrated network of university and community-based physicians for HMO enrollees in San Francisco.”

“This partnership strengthens both organizations’ capabilities to provide patients with easy access to quality health care. It also positions UCSF with increased flexibility to meet the needs of our patients and their doctors as health care delivery is reformed,” said Sam Hawgood, MBBS, president of the UCSF Medical Group and dean of the UCSF School of Medicine.

Hill Physicians Medical Group was founded in 1984 and has maintained a physician presence in San Francisco since 1995. It is one of the nation’s largest independent physician associations, serving an area from Sacramento to San Joaquin to San Francisco and caring for approximately 300,000 HMO members through a network of more than 3,000 doctors. Hill, UCSF and the leadership at Catholic Health West’s two San Francisco hospitals initiated discussions early last year about joining forces to create a patient-focused, physician-driven network in the City. Now more than 870 doctors in San Francisco and Daly City are affiliated with Hill.

For many local residents with HMO coverage, the easiest access to UCSF specialists will be through primary care doctors affiliated with Hill Physicians in San Francisco and Daly City. The transition plan was announced in late summer in order to provide consumers time to make informed choices during the fall open enrollment season when many employers allow workers to revise their health benefit selections.



Even though open enrollment is over, most HMO members are still able to switch medical groups by calling the health plan and requesting to change medical groups. There is no interruption of insurance coverage or change in cost. HMOs have begun sending the 2010 insurance cards to members. Enrollees in San Francisco and Daly City are encouraged to look at their cards to see which medical group is listed to ensure they have their desired level of access to preferred providers.

UCSF joined Hill Physicians after the long-standing relationship between UCSF Medical Group and Brown & Toland Physicians was terminated by Brown & Toland. Members of Kaiser Permanente and consumers with PPO plans are not affected by the change in affiliation.

Hill Physicians has posted online resources at [www.HillPhysicians.com/UCSF](http://www.HillPhysicians.com/UCSF) and will assist prospective members in locating an affiliated physician when they call (800) 445-5747 (option 2). UCSF patients who have questions also can visit [www.accessUCSF.org](http://www.accessUCSF.org) or call 888-689-UCSF (8273) for more information.

#### **About Hill Physicians Medical Group**

Hill Physicians Medical Group is one of the nation's largest independent physician associations (IPAs) and a recognized leader in innovative health care. The Standards of Excellence Program of the California Association of Physician Groups recognizes Hill Physicians as a state-wide leader in patient-centered care, care management practices, health information technology, accountability and transparency. Committed to serving healthy lifestyles, Hill Physicians Medical Group offers extensive health education services to its patients, including wellness classes, health screenings, and self-help through its online information portal at [www.HillPhysicians.com](http://www.HillPhysicians.com).

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