



Contact: Dan Robinson
Phone: 925.327.6731
Email: dan.robinson@hpmg.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hill Physicians Now Largest IPA in San Francisco

More than 1,000 Doctors in San Francisco

SAN RAMON, CA (September 7, 2010) – Hill Physicians Medical Group now has more than 1,000 doctors in private practice and clinical care in its San Francisco region, making it the largest Independent Physician Association in the City as ranked by the number of providers.

“If you’re in San Francisco, this means your largest choice of independent doctors is now through Hill Physicians,” said Steve McDermott, CEO of Hill Physicians. “Our medical group provides more choice of doctors, in-network access to UCSF and satisfaction rates in the top 10%.”

In addition to the 1,000+ physicians in clinical and private practice, another 1,200 practitioners with Hill are not included in this count because they are part-time, faculty, consultants or provide patient services through hospital-based positions.

Hill Physicians opened its first San Francisco practice in 1994, followed by another 200 doctors over the years. In August 2009, UCSF Medical Group announced it would change its affiliation to Hill Physicians. Since then, a growing number of community-based physicians, many of whom are affiliated with St. Mary’s Medical Center and Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, have also joined Hill. In March 2010, the Physicians Integrated Medical Group (PIMG) announced plans to gradually wind down operations and endorsed a transition plan under which more than 120 of its doctors joined Hill Physicians. Hill subsequently entered into patient care agreements with Seton Medical Center and St. Luke’s Hospital and added San Francisco Health Plan as an additional health plan.

Nearly 800 specialists representing 80 specialties and sub-specialties are in Hill’s San Francisco network, including a majority of the “Best Doctors” in San Francisco. The “Best Doctors” survey is a national peer-to-peer survey which asks doctors who they consider the best in various fields. Fewer than 5% of the nation’s doctors make it into the “Best Doctors” survey results. Based on its 2009-2010 survey, more than half of the “Best Doctors” in San Francisco are in Hill Physicians’ network.

Consumer membership for Hill Physicians’ San Francisco region also has been on a rapid trajectory, growing six-fold during the past year, from fewer than 6,000 members to more than 38,000. “San Francisco is a dynamic city and a lot has happened in the past year. Doctors are coalescing around our community-academic network of care and consumers are changing medical groups in order to take advantage of it,” said McDermott.



The size of a medical group is important because primary care physicians typically refer to specialists within the same medical group. Larger groups tend to have more specialties represented and more specialists from which to choose, making referrals easier. Hill Physicians further enables its primary care doctors to refer members to specialists in the same region for consultations, without review by the medical group. In San Francisco, more than 200 primary care physicians are now accepting new patients.

The expansion of the physician network creates the potential for additional growth during open enrollment, a window of time during which many people choose a health plan, a medical group and a personal physician.

The growth in San Francisco to more than 1,000 providers brings Hill's total number of clinical and private practice doctors in Northern California to more than 3,500. Hill Physicians' service area stretches from north of Sacramento to the San Joaquin Valley to San Francisco. Total consumer membership is more than 300,000.

About Hill Physicians Medical Group

Hill Physicians Medical Group is the largest independent physician association in Northern California 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.