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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Hill Physicians Medical Group Designated “Elite” Status**

*Statewide Annual Survey Looks for Quality and Affordability*

**San Ramon, CA (July 1, 2009)** – Hill Physicians has received “Elite” status designation -- the highest level possible -- in the 2009 Standards of Excellence program conducted by the California Association of Physician Groups. This marks the second year in a row the highest level has been awarded to Hill Physicians Medical Group.

The annual survey ranks medical group performance across the state. From over 150 medical groups in California, 85 voluntarily agreed to be objectively measured based on care management, patient-centered care, accountability and transparency, and information technology. Of those, only 20 received the highest possible score.

“It’s gratifying to be recognized for the hard work,” says Hill Physicians CEO Steve McDermott. “We strongly believe in accountability to our patients and our physicians. The glue that holds this performance together is our unifying goal of providing quality patient care.”

As momentum builds for healthcare reform, one area under increasing scrutiny is the healthcare delivery system because it sometimes rewards doing more rather than doing better. That’s one reason CAPG began its annual assessment program, which ranks the performance of coordinated healthcare organizations in how well they bring quality and affordability to individual patients and large populations. The Association notes that many groups use the evaluation process as a roadmap for improvements they need to make.

McDermott advocates the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model of care which monitors specific measurements of quality such as the readmission rate for patients after discharge from a hospital. “By keeping a close eye on each step in the process, the patient’s experience and outcome will be improved,” he says.

The scorecard for all participating groups can be seen at [www.capg.org](http://www.capg.org).

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**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 managed health care. The Standards of Excellence Program of the California Association of Physician Groups recognizes Hill Physicians as a state-wide leader in care management practices, health information technology, accountability and transparency. Nearly 300,000 people in seven Northern California counties have selected Hill Physicians care providers for their primary and specialized care. 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).

**About California Association of Physician Groups**

CAPG is a professional association comprised of more than 150 of California's leading physician groups. These groups employ and/or contract with physicians who in turn provide health care services to approximately 13 million Californians. More than fifty percent of California's health care is delivered by physicians employed by or contracted with CAPG members. More information on the Association is at [www.CAPG.org](http://www.CAPG.org).

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