



REFUAH HEALTH CENTER

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REFUAH HEALTH CENTER RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THEIR EXCELLENCE IN DIABETES CARE

**Refuah Recognized for Diabetes Care and Outcomes
by the National Committee on Quality Assurance**

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. (December 1, 2011) Refuah Health Center has achieved recognition under the National Committee on Quality Assurance's Diabetes Provider Recognition Program. The voluntary program is designed to recognize health care providers who provide excellent care to their patients with diabetes. In order to achieve recognition, Refuah had to demonstrate that they consistently deliver the right care to their patients with diabetes and have helped their patients control their disease. The program measures critical patient outcomes, including patients who have their blood sugar, blood pressure, and LDL cholesterol under control. It also measures how many patients received their eye exams and nephropathy assessments and were assessed and counseled for smoking.

"We are thrilled that Refuah has received this national recognition for our diabetes care," said Chanie Sternberg, President and CEO of Refuah Health Center. "Providing the right care to patients with diabetes means that we are saving lives and making sure that no one loses a limb or their eyesight for a disease that can be prevented and managed."

"We are delighted that Refuah Health Center is being recognized for their excellence in diabetes care," said Joan Facelle, MD, MPH, Rockland County's Commissioner of Health. "Diabetes is one of the priorities for our Steps to a Healthier Rockland County initiative, and Refuah is doing its part to treat this prevalent and dangerous disease."

Support for achieving the recognition was provided by the Community Health Care Association of New York State as part of their work with the New York State Health Foundation's statewide Diabetes Campaign.

In 2009, 8% of Rockland County adults had diabetes,¹ and many more likely have it but do not know it. Diabetes is a disease in which blood sugar (glucose) levels are above normal. Diabetes can lead to serious complications and premature death. However, there are many things that people with diabetes can do to control the disease and lower their risk of complications.

¹ http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/indicators/county/rockland.htm

“While this recognition highlights what Refuah has done to improve diabetes care and outcomes, there is much more work to be done,” said Dr. Corinna Manini, Refuah’s Medical Director. “For people with diabetes, talk to your provider about what you can do to control your diabetes and see your provider regularly to get the care you need.”

Refuah Health Center: Established in 1992, Refuah serves the underserved in Rockland County, Sullivan County, and a few towns in Ulster and Orange Counties. In 2002, Refuah was approved as a federally qualified health center and received grant funds to support services to the medically underserved. Today Refuah is one of few providers in its current service area committed to providing critically needed healthcare services for underinsured and uninsured populations. In 2010, Refuah served 27,179 users with 137,940 visits.

Refuah has also received the highest level of recognition—Level Three—under the National Committee for Quality Assurance’s a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition program. This recognition requires that centers have robust systems in place to monitor, track, treat, and coordinate care for patients across the continuum of care. The recognition verifies that Refuah’s care exemplify the principles and practices of patient-centered care.

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