



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Patricia Klein  
Public Relations Specialist  
HPC Healthcare, Inc.

813-871-8417 (desk)  
813-352-0990 (cell)  
[kleinp@hpchealthcare.org](mailto:kleinp@hpchealthcare.org)

**DATE:** February 27, 2009

### **Ronald Schonwetter, M.D. earns board certification in hospice and palliative medicine from the American Board of Internal Medicine**

**TAMPA** – Ronald Schonwetter, M.D., executive vice president and chief medical officer at HPC Healthcare, Inc., has successfully earned subspecialty board certification in hospice and palliative medicine from the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). This is the first time the ABIM has given this examination.

HPC Healthcare, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that provides hospice and palliative care programs and services in Hillsborough, Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties through its subsidiaries LifePath Hospice, Good Shepherd Hospice and Axis Palliative Healthcare.

“HPC Healthcare strives to be a leader in hospice and palliative care,” said Kathy L. Fernandez, HPC Healthcare president and CEO. “Dr. Schonwetter’s commitment to obtaining his hospice and palliative medicine subspecialty board certification displays his dedication to high-quality and compassionate end-of-life care.”

ABIM works to enhance the quality of health care by certifying internists and subspecialists who demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for excellent patient care.

A growing body of research suggests that board-certified physicians deliver higher quality care than non-certified physicians. Board certification demonstrates to the public that physicians have met the highest standards of internal medicine and its subspecialties. Board certification is voluntary and includes an exam that tests a physician’s ability to diagnose and treat patients with a broad range of conditions.

***About HPC Healthcare, Inc.***

*Based in Tampa, HPC Healthcare Inc. is one of the nation's largest, not-for-profit hospice and palliative care organizations. HPC Healthcare is the parent organization of LifePath Hospice, Inc. in Hillsborough County; Good Shepherd Hospice, Inc. in Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties; Axis Palliative Healthcare, LLC; and HPC Pharmacy Services, LLC. Through its compassionate and comprehensive hospice and palliative care programs in four central Florida counties, HPC Healthcare addresses the pain and end-of-life care needs of more than 1,900 patients each day. To demonstrate its commitment to the communities it serves, HPC Healthcare provided nearly \$7 million in charity care in 2007.*

###



**Ronald Schonwetter, M.D.**  
**HPC Healthcare, Inc. Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer**