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LifePath Hospice physicians earn hospice and palliative medicine certification from the American Board of Internal Medicine

TAMPA – Five LifePath Hospice physicians have successfully earned their board subspecialty certification in hospice and palliative medicine from the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). This is the first time the ABIM has given the examination.

The physicians include LifePath Hospice Medical Director Deidra Woods, M.D.; staff physicians Dorece Norris, M.D. and Wui Chen, M.D.; and contract physicians Robert Walker, M.D. and Richard Wacksman, M.D.

“LifePath Hospice strives to provide our patients with the highest quality end-of-life care,” said Ronald Schonwetter, M.D., HPC Healthcare, Inc. executive vice president and chief medical officer. “These physicians, by taking the added steps to obtain this certification, demonstrate their commitment to outstanding hospice care.” HPC Healthcare, Inc. is the parent organization of LifePath Hospice.

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 LifePath Hospice

LifePath Hospice is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that supports and serves nearly 1,200 patients each day in Hillsborough County as they face the challenges of life-limiting illnesses. Healthcare professionals and trained volunteers embrace the LifePath Hospice mission to make the most of life by relieving the suffering of patients and their families affected by end-of-life issues. The organization is a 2008 recipient of a Circle of Life Citation of Honor Award, which celebrates innovation in palliative and end-of-life care. LifePath Hospice is accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation's premier healthcare accrediting agency. For more information, visit the LifePath Hospice website at www.lifepath-hospice.org

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