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Contact: Julie A. Doerr  
Communications Specialist  
(716) 622-  
7060 (cellular)**

[Julie.doerr@gbuahn.org](mailto:Julie.doerr@gbuahn.org)

### **GBUACO one of only ten ACOs in the U.S. to receive NCQA accreditation**

(BUFFALO, N.Y., December 19, 2017) – The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has presented the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Care Organization (GBUACO) level two accreditation as an accountable care organization (ACO). GBUACO is one of only ten ACOs in the U.S. to receive this distinction. Earning NCQA accreditation as an accountable care organization shows that GBUACO is dedicated to delivering coordinated patient-centered care and is accountable for improving clinical quality, enhancing the patient experience and reducing cost. The NCQA sets its standards high to encourage accountable care organizations like GBUACO to continuously enhance the quality of services they deliver.

“This NCQA accreditation is a huge honor for GBUACO, which in its very first year of existence,” said GBUACO CEO Raul Vazquez, M.D. “We are changing the way health care is delivered in Buffalo, Western New York and the nation. GBUACO’s performance measures prove it. The NCQA sets its standards high, making this accreditation very difficult to achieve, with only nine other ACOs in the entire country holding this honor with GBUACO.”

The NCQA Accountable Care Organization Accreditation not only involves a rigorous review of an organization’s structure and processes, but also requires organizations to collect data on key clinical and service measures (e.g., mammography screening rates, comprehensive diabetes care; consumer satisfaction).

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“By earning NCQA ACO Accreditation, GBUACO has demonstrated to payers and other purchasers that it has met challenging requirements designed to show the efficiency, integration and high quality expected of an accountable care organization,” said NCQA President Margaret E. O’Kaner. “Accreditation also shows patients and providers that GBUACO is prepared to deliver on the promise of better care on all these dimensions.”

#### **About NCQA**

NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA is committed to providing health care quality information for consumers, purchasers, health care providers and researchers.

#### **About GBUACO**

The Greater Buffalo United Accountable Care Organization (GBUACO) is the first Medicaid accountable care organization in New York State. It is a group of hospitals, physicians, specialists and other health

care providers who have come together voluntarily to give coordinated care to the patients they serve. Coordinated care helps avoid unnecessary duplication of services and allows for a free flow of medical information among providers. GBUACO operates under a value-based payment system. Under a value-based payment system, practitioners in GBUACO are incentivized for the quality, and not the quantity, of services rendered. GBUACO's doctors and health care providers have to meet clearly defined quality standards and metrics that focus on prevention and effectively managing patients with chronic diseases.