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HOW DOES YOUR DOCTOR COMPARE? CONSUMER REPORTS RATES PHYSICIAN GROUPS IN DETROIT

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation effort helps people use objective information on the quality of care delivered at local primary care practices

DETROIT, Mich.—New ratings published in *Consumer Reports* magazine give consumers in the greater Detroit area a rare window into how their doctors compare. The ratings focus on how well doctors provide evidence-based care for patients with high cholesterol and diabetes, and how often doctors provide the right screening tests for colon cancer.

Known as The Doctor Project, the effort is funded by the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) (RWJF) and was led in southeast Michigan by the [Greater Detroit Area Health Council](#) (GDAHC), a multi-stakeholder collaborative dedicated to improving health and wellbeing in the region. Additional support was provided by [MN Community Measurement](#), a national leader in reporting information on the quality of care provided by doctors, medical practices, and hospitals.

“It is surprisingly difficult for a patient with diabetes to find out which doctors provide the best diabetes care,” said Susan Mende, BSN, MPH, senior program officer at RWJF. “These ratings provide a starting point for patients to talk with their doctor about the right care for their condition, and potentially choose a specific practice that provides high-quality care.”

GDAHC worked with 13 physician organizations—large networks of physicians—to collect and report data on the quality of medical care they provide. The quality of care varies: one group earned top scores in all three measures, and two others earned top scores for two of the three measures.

“We have been working in the greater Detroit region for more than a decade to provide both consumers and clinicians with objective information about the quality of care provided at local medical practices and hospitals,” said Steven Grant, MD, chairman of the board of the Greater Detroit Area Health Council. “Making this information available is an important step toward improving the care and overall health of people in our area.”

The doctor ratings are part of the May issue of *Consumer Reports*, available online at ConsumerReports.org and on newsstands and wherever magazines are sold.

“The physician group ratings are part of a broader effort by Consumer Reports to give consumers as much meaningful data as possible so they can make smart decisions,” said Doris Peter, PhD, director of the *Consumer Reports* Health Ratings Center. “Given the importance of our health

care decisions—both in terms of their effect on our health and our pocketbooks— we need to bring more transparency and accountability to health care.”

Eight community-based health care organizations—representing California, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, Washington, Wisconsin, and the greater Columbus, Ohio, and Detroit, Michigan areas—have agreed to publish quality ratings of physician groups.

The Doctor Project is one of several efforts GDAHC leads to improve health in the greater Southeast Michigan region. As part of the [Choosing Wisely](#) initiative, GDAHC works with local partners to improve quality and reduce the cost of care by decreasing unnecessary tests and treatments.

In addition to *Consumer Reports* magazine, the ratings will be available at www.gdahc.org for no charge.

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About the Greater Detroit Area Health Council

GDAHC is southeast Michigan’s premier health care coalition. It leverages cross-sector and multi-stakeholder collaboration to develop and evaluate innovative ways to improve the health and wellbeing of the people living and working in southeast Michigan. As a health care leader for more than 70 years – recognized nationally and regionally – GDAHC represents everyone who gets care, gives care and pays for care. Dedicated to the cost-effective allocation, management and use of health care resources, the non-profit collaborative seeks to develop strong, strategic partnerships that increase access to care, improve the value, and manage the cost of health.

About Consumer Reports

Consumer Reports is the world’s largest and most trusted nonprofit, consumer organization working to improve the lives of consumers by driving marketplace change. Founded in 1936, Consumer Reports has achieved substantial gains for consumers on health reform, food and product safety, financial reform, and other issues. The organization has advanced important policies to cut hospital-acquired infections, prohibit predatory lending practices and combat dangerous toxins in food. Consumer Reports tests and rates thousands of products and services in its 50-plus labs, state-of-the-art auto test center and consumer research center. Consumers Union, a division of Consumer Reports, works for pro-consumer laws and regulations in Washington, D.C., the states, and in the marketplace. With more than eight million subscribers to its flagship magazine, website and other publications, Consumer Reports accepts no advertising, payment or other support from the companies whose products it evaluates.

About MN Community Measurement

MN Community Measurement is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving health by publicly reporting health care information. A trusted source of health care data and public reporting on quality, cost and patient experience since 2003, MNCM works with medical groups, health plans, employers, consumers and state agencies to spur quality improvement, reduce health care costs and maximize value. Learn more at MNCM.org.

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working with others to build a national Culture of Health enabling everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.