

The logo for Hospital for Special Care, featuring the text "Hospital for Special Care" in a white serif font on a dark teal square background.

Hospital for
Special Care

We Rebuild Lives.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Jordana George, Mason, Inc.
203.393.1101, Ext. 166/914.469.6674 - cell
jgeorge@mason23.com

Wendy DeAngelo, Hospital for Special Care
860-259-7882 (Cell) or wdeangelo@hfsc.org

**Hospital for Special Care Marks COPD Awareness Month
with National, Local Honors**

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (Nov. 6, 2018) — The Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Disease Management program, funded by the [Gawlicki Family Foundation](#), at [Hospital for Special Care](#) (HSC) has recently earned both national and local recognition of note during National COPD Awareness month:

- The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has recognized the hospital's Gawlicki Family COPD Disease Management (COPD DM) program as the nation's first and only Patient Centered Specialty Practice (PCSP).
- Respiratory therapist Stephanie Alderman has been selected by the Hartford Business Journal as a Health Care Hero for her role in supporting patients with COPD.

"Nearly 16 million Americans are diagnosed with chronic lower respiratory disease, primarily COPD," said Mary Gawlicki, who founded the Gawlicki Family Foundation with her husband Ted. "We believe that investing in programs like Hospital for Special Care's COPD DM program, a program that is a national leader in delivering highly coordinated care that yields outstanding outcomes, is a sound strategy for reducing mortality and improving patients' quality of life."

The Gawlicki Family Foundation awarded a \$250,000 grant to HSC in 2017 to support the hospital's efforts to achieve PCSP recognition. Funds support better tracking and coordination of referrals for care, strengthening access and communication to patients, and better planning and managing patient-centered care.

“With support from the Gawlicki Family Foundation and outstanding staff like Stephanie, we are able to provide unparalleled care to patients with COPD and other pulmonary health issues,” said Lynn Ricci, FACHE, President and chief executive officer of Hospital for Special Care. “Stephanie has helped to develop the Gawlicki Family COPD DM program, runs a successful pulmonary rehabilitation program and facilitates the Breathtakers Support Group, the largest COPD support group in Connecticut and even helps her patients achieve life goals, like participating in the Eversource Hartford marathon 5K. She is a hero to her patients and their families.”

NCQA Patient-Centered Specialty Practice (PCSP) Recognition is an innovative program for improving specialty care. With a set of standards that describe clear and specific criteria, the program gives practices information about organizing care around patients, working in teams, and coordinating and tracking care over time with primary care and specialty care colleagues. Each of the three levels of NCQA [PCSP recognition](#) reflect the degree to which a practice meets the requirements, elements and factors that comprise the standards.



PCSP recognition is modeled on and complements NCQA’s Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Recognition program, the most widely adopted medical home model in the country. A medical home is a way of organizing primary care that uses teamwork and technology to improve quality, improve patients’ experience of care and reduce costs. PCSP recognition highlights the “neighbors” in medical specialties that surround and inform the medical home and colleagues in primary care.

The [2018 Hartford Business Journal Healthcare Heroes Awards](#) recognize outstanding leaders in the health care industry. Health Care Heroes will be recognized at a luncheon on Dec. 6, 2018 at the Hartford Marriott.

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’s Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA’s website (ncqa.org) contains information to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices.

About Hospital for Special Care

[Hospital for Special Care \(HSC\)](#) is the fourth largest, free-standing long-term acute care hospital in the U.S. and the only one in the nation serving adults and children. HSC is recognized for advanced care and rehabilitation in pulmonary care, acquired brain injury, medically-complex pediatrics, neuromuscular disorders including ALS research, spinal cord injury, comprehensive heart failure and comprehensive inpatient and outpatient treatment for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder.



Stephanie Alderman, RT (right) with lung transplant patient Laura Roix (left) at the 2018 Eversource Hartford Marathon.

Located in New Britain and Hartford, CT, HSC operates inpatient and outpatient facilities serving Southern New England and the Tri-State area on a not-for-profit basis. For the latest news and information, please visit www.hfsc.org, and follow us on and follow us on Facebook @HospitalforSpecialCare and Twitter @HospSpecialCare.

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