

For Immediate Release
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The National Consensus Project Releases Second Edition of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care

PITTSBURGH, PA, April 3, 2009 – The National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care (NCP) is pleased to announce the release of the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, Second Edition*. This updated set of guidelines will reflect the continued advancements in the palliative care field since the first printing of the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Care*, which was originally distributed to the public five years ago. It is the goal of the NCP for the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, Second Edition* to serve as a national blueprint for optimal palliative care.

The first edition of the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care (2004)* was developed by the NCP, comprised of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM), the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC), and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), to describe the major concepts and essential structures of clinical palliative care programs. This was an important development in the advancement of palliative care because the document offered a map for the future of palliative care. In 2005, the National Quality Forum (NQF) utilized the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care* as a foundation for the document titled *A National Framework for Palliative and Hospice Care Quality Measurement and Reporting*.

In the second edition of the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care (2009)*, clarifications are made to make the document more inclusive and expansive to all settings that provide palliative care. Other revisions include updates of the references and definitions used in the Guidelines, listing of NCP Leadership award winners, and concrete examples of guideline implementation in the field. The revisions found in the second edition work to continue the consensus process among the four consortium organizations that comprise the NCP.

“The implications of these revisions are far-reaching and immensely important to the palliative care field,” said **Betty Ferrell, PhD, RN, FAAN, FPCN**, Chairperson of the National Consensus Project. “Serving as a strong

foundation for new and existing palliative care programs, the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, Second Edition* will assure consistency and the highest level of care. The NCP also would like to sincerely thank **Constance Dahlin, APRN, BC, ACHPN[®], FPCN** for her dedication and continued support to the palliative care field by serving as Chair of the NCP Revision Task Force for this project.”

The complete *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, Second Edition* can be viewed and downloaded free of charge at http://www.nationalconsensusproject.org/Guidelines_Download.asp. Copies of the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, Second Edition* may be purchased online at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) [Marketplace](#).

About the National Consensus Project (NCP)

The National Consensus Project, based in Pittsburgh, PA, is a task force of the Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition, a consortium of four national palliative care organizations: the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM), the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC), the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). The NCP represents a groundbreaking initiative to further define and underscore the value of palliative care and to improve upon the delivery of palliative care in the United States. A major objective of the NCP is to heighten awareness of palliative care as an option in treating those with a life-limiting or chronic debilitating illness, condition or injury, and to raise public understanding of the growing need for such care. Detailed information about the NCP is available at <http://www.nationalconsensusproject.org>. For more information about the *Guidelines* or the NCP, please contact the National Consensus Project Headquarters at 412-787-1002, or email info@nationalconsensusproject.org or info@hpna.org.

About the National Quality Forum (NQF)

The NQF is a broad-based non-profit “organization of organizations” tasked with the mission of developing ways to improve the quality of American health care. The NQF effects this goal through endorsement of consensus-based national standards for measurement and public reporting of health care performance data that provide meaningful information about whether care is safe, timely, beneficial, patient-centered, equitable, and efficient. Established as a public-private partnership, the NQF has broad participation from all parts of the health care system, including national, state, regional, and local groups representing consumers, public and private purchasers, employers, health care professionals, provider organizations, health plans, accrediting bodies, labor unions, supporting industries, and organizations involved in health care research or quality improvement. More information can be found at <http://www.qualityforum.org>.

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