

The Board of Directors of the American Medical Directors Certification Program (AMDCP) is proud to announce that Philip J. Dzwonczyk, MD, CMD of Norwich, NY has been recertified as a Certified Medical Director in Long Term Care (CMD). The value of certification has never been more apparent. A new study, commissioned by the AMDCP and which was IRB approved finds that having an AMDA certified medical director (CMD) contributes positively to a nursing home's quality of care. Analysis of data showed that quality scores represented a 15% improvement in quality for facilities with certified medical directors (CMDs). The study appeared in the July 2009 issue of the Journal of American Medical Directors Association (JAMDA). Free access to the article regarding the study is available online at: www.jamda.com/article/PIIS1525861009001984/fulltext. Dr. Dzwonczyk is one of more than 2,700 physicians nationwide who have received the CMD designation since the program's inception.

The Certified Medical Director in Long Term Care program was created to enhance the profession of medical direction throughout the long term care continuum (e.g., nursing facilities, hospice, assisted living, home care, post-acute care) and to reinforce the leadership role of the medical director in providing quality care. Federal regulations and changes in the health care environment have established the role of the medical director as central to the delivery of quality care. The increased presence of managed care in long term care settings has emphasized credentialing, and CMD certification has taken on additional importance. The CMD designation provides an indicator of professional competence to long term care providers, government and other quality assurance agencies, consumers, and the public.

The CMD program recognizes the dual clinical and management roles of the medical director and requires indicators of competence in both areas. The dual nature of the skills needed makes the position of medical director unique in medicine. The certification process is based on an experiential model that incorporates mechanisms such as fellowship programs, board certification in a medical specialty, AMDA-sponsored comprehensive courses in medical direction, continuing medical education programs and administrative experience to fulfill certification requirements.

For further information about the CMD program, contact: American Medical Directors Certification Program, 11000 Broken Land Parkway, Suite 405, Columbia, MD 21044, call (410)740-9743, or send an e-mail to cmd@amda.com

Dr. Dzwonczyk is the medical director of the New York State Veterans' Home in Oxford. He has served in this capacity for over 18 years and is board certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is a Fellow of both the American College of Physicians and the American Geriatrics Society and is a member of the faculty at the Upstate Medical University's Clinical Campus in Binghamton. In addition, he serves on the adjunct faculty at the Decker School of Nursing of Binghamton University.