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## **Five California Region Medical Groups Earn Highest Ratings**

*New Report Cards Grade California Medical Groups for Medicare Advantage Members*

**Sacramento-** Performance results are out today for participating medical groups that provide care for over 2 million California Medicare Advantage members. The Office of the Patient Advocate (OPA) released the online edition of the 2016-2017 Medical Group Medicare Report Card; and it is available on [www.opa.ca.gov](http://www.opa.ca.gov). Six out of 186 participating medical groups statewide succeeded in attaining an overall 5 star rating for clinical quality. All five of the California regions have at least one top rated plan. The five regions are Bay Area/Sacramento, Central Valley/Central Coast/North, Inland Empire, Los Angeles and Orange County/San Diego. This represents an improvement from last year where only two regions had top-rated medical groups.

This is the second year running that OPA reports ratings for Medicare Advantage Medical Groups. In addition to the top scores, another 52 medical groups achieved a 4.5 star rating in 2015, which represents almost 30 percent of California's participating medical groups. Altogether, more than half of the participating medical groups obtained scores of 4 stars or higher.

*"The Medicare Medical Group Report Card provides helpful information on clinical quality to consumers," said OPA Director Elizabeth Abbott, "We are pleased to offer this Report Card for a second year. Our goal is to improve healthcare transparency and encourage high standards of care, and hope Californians continue using our Report Cards to make informed health care decisions."*

OPA's Medicare Report Cards provide unbiased, precise ratings on 186 medical groups from 39 different counties in California. This online tool allows users to search for medical groups by county or alphabetically and easily compare quality ratings side by side.

The Report Cards contain data provided by the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that publicly report performance of Medicare Advantage health plans with a 5 star rating system. Using 13 different clinical measures, the Medicare Report Card provides an overall rating on how well medical groups provide recommended care to their Medicare Advantage Members. In addition, the report card includes ratings on specific clinical measures such as controlling blood sugar and eye exams for patients with diabetes, colorectal and breast cancer screenings, proper management of medication, and preventing hospital readmission after discharge.

The report cards are available online at [www.opa.ca.gov](http://www.opa.ca.gov).

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*The Office of the Patient Advocate's mission is to improve California health care quality and advocate for consumer interests by publicly reporting data for informed decision-making.*