

Statewide Experts, Local Medical Professionals and more than 10,000 Community Members *Oppose NCH's New Admissions Policy* Join CCMS in Petitioning for Patients' Right to Choose



- On Oct. 23, NCH medical staff voted unanimously to reject this policy.
- 95% of local physicians surveyed do not agree with NCH's policy.
- More than 10,000 Community Members have signed our petition.
- Experts and local leaders have joined CCMS in publicly expressing concern about the policy:
 - Florida Medical Association
 - American College of Physicians FL Chapter
 - Florida Geriatrics Society
 - Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
 - Mayor Bill Barnett, Naples City Council
 - Collier County Commissioner Andy Solis
 - Collier County Commissioner Penny Taylor
 - Naples Daily News Editorial Board

Full letters available at:
ccmsonline.org/patientchoice

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November 28, 2018

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December 17, 2018

The Florida Geriatrics Society (FGS) is unequivocally opposed to the proposed changes to the relationship between patients and providers of utmost importance to their care and the hospitalist the provide. Multiple new yields better 30-day facility, and results personal knowledge patients makes their when a patient is be designee is the logic The Florida feels strongly that p randomly to a phys An affiliate

Florida Geriatrics Society

ACP Florida Section Chapter
American College of Physicians
Leading Internal Medicine, Improving Lives

December 14, 2018

Mariann MacDonald
Chairman, Board of Trustees
NCH Naples Hospital Inc.
350 7th Street North
Naples, FL 34102

Dear Mrs. MacDonald:

County Commission Members of Naples,

I am the President of the Florida Medical Association (FMA), which has over 25,000 physician members, and I am writing to give you the perspective of the FMA regarding NCH Health Care System's new care model that limits hospital admissions to NCH employed hospitalists and prohibits non-employed community physicians from admitting, directing the care of, and discharging their patients.

I am a resident of the City of Naples having lived here since 1996. I was not only on staff at NCH for much of that time but also served as the vice chair and chair of the department of internal medicine in the medical executive committee. I am a past president of the FMA, and I am very as a leader in organized medicine about NCH's new care model to a closed, employee only, staff model.

es that patients have a right to choose the physician that to choose where that care is provided. We support all due process when credentials are challenged and the need and independently advised. Finally, it is the position is not be limited to only those physicians employed by the

Board of Collier County Commissioners

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December 21, 2018

Ms. Mariann MacDonald, Chair
Board of Directors
NCH Healthcare System
330 7th Street North
Naples, FL 34102

Dear Chairwoman MacDonald,

As a follow-up to my meeting with you on December 17th, I am forwarding you the following information:

- NCH Healthcare System must support the Patient-Centered Care Pilot program, advance, by those who are in support of the program.
- I expressed that it is unacceptable to have the Neighborhood Health Clinic "Neighborhood Health Clinic" are getting everything for free. I responded that this seems not to be in the best interest of the community.
- Dr. Weiss' credibility is gone.
- NCH is a community hospital and supported through the tax dollars of the community.

3299 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 302

City of Naples

December 6, 2018

Mariann MacDonald – Board Chair
Board of Trustees 2018-2019
NCH Healthcare System, Inc.
NCH Naples Hospital, Inc.
1895 E. Gordon Drive
Naples, FL 34102

Dear Chair MacDonald and Members of the Board of Trustees:

Since I first came to live in Naples, it has been a significant part of the fabric of the city. In 1984, I have served our residents with countless doctors and medical professionals. I have had, and continue to have, a great deal of respect for the community. I have seen many measurable improvements in the quality of life in Naples, such as the current Blue Zone project.

However, as I expect you already know, many members of our community since the beginning of hospital employed doctors have been e-mails, phone calls, and letters to you and elsewhere. The community response has been overwhelming. At the December 17th meeting, representatives of the Collier County Medical Society and other community representatives to take action.

It is understood by City Council that we do not want to try. We recognize the importance of the issue and the need for a solution. With this common ground, I asked that I draft this letter to you, and I ask that you step back and listen to what our community has to say.

The Council is concerned that the current policy. The citizens that we collect from physicians who perform important

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December 14, 2018

Mariann MacDonald, Chair, Board of Directors
NCH Healthcare System
350 7th Street North
Naples, FL 34102

Dear Ms. MacDonald,

At Tuesday's County Commission meeting, Dr. Corey Howard, President of the Florida Medical Society; Dr. Cesar De Leon, President of the Collier County Medical Society; Dr. Nancy Lascheid and John Cardillo from the Neighborhood Clinic; numerous other independent physicians, patient advocates, and concerned residents spoke in steadfast opposition to the admissions policy recently proposed by NCH. In addition, all of the County Commissioner have received calls, emails, and been approached by residents that are unhappy with the new policy. All of these disparate Collier residents are united in their belief that the proposed policy would be detrimental to overall patient care.

At a different level, the County Commission is concerned with how such a policy change would affect the approximately 10,000 people covered by its healthcare insurance. Any negatively perceived change to the coverage provided by Collier County Government could make it even more difficult to attract and retain the talented and dedicated staff that makes Collier County the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Another common theme in the comments we are hearing is dismay that NCH has seemed unwilling to answer questions about the new policy. Adopting such a far-reaching change in policy with little or no communication with the public appears inconsistent with the concept of patient-centered care and contrary to the ideals of a community hospital system.

It was reassuring to hear that NCH will delay implementation of the policy in order to engage with the community and study the policy further. Thank you for this decision. On behalf of the Collier County Commission, I encourage you to engage in a thorough and independent assessment of any change to admissions policies, and to ensure that your communications with the community and independent physicians are as transparent as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of the community's concerns on this very important issue.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Andy Solis, Chair

Download full letters and sign a petition at
ccmsonline.org/patientchoice