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## Operator of NL, Groton health clinics is honored

By [Judy Benson](#) Day Staff Writer

The Community Health Center, which operates clinics in New London, Groton and 12 other locations around the state, has become the first health care provider in Connecticut to receive the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home Option.

The designation is an accreditation of health care organizations that meet Joint Commission standards for how effectively the primary care provider and other providers work together for coordinated, comprehensive care. CHC previously received designation as a primary care medical home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. It is the only health care organization in the state to receive both designations.

"We have always been striving to be as innovative and forward-thinking as a health center can be for underserved patients," said Eliza Cole, spokeswoman for CHC.

To receive the designation, created last July, CHC underwent a rigorous, unannounced Joint Commission on-site survey of the entire agency in January, CHC said in a news release.

"Organizations that pursue the (primary care) option from The Joint Commission are demonstrating the highest commitment to delivering primary care in a comprehensive, coordinated and accessible model," said Michael Kulczycki, executive director of the Ambulatory Care Accreditation Program at The Joint Commission.

"This distinction recognizes the hard work being done across our agency to ensure that every patient receives care that is patient centered, evidence based, and of the highest quality, regardless of social standing or insurance status," said Dr. Daren Anderson, vice president and chief quality officer of CHC.

Cole said a primary care medical home is basically a "one-stop shop" for patients, a place where providers coordinate overall care and patients can be diagnosed and treated for a wide range of ailments.

"Your doctor probably doesn't talk to your dentist, but at CHC, they're all talking to each other," Cole said.

"This model of care benefits everyone," said Dr. Nwando Olayiwola, CHC's chief medical officer. "Patients are more satisfied with their experiences, the patient-provider relationship is strengthened, and providers see their patients taking an active role in managing their

health."

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