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FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Andy Reynolds (202) 955-3518

**LOCAL CLINICIAN RECEIVES NATIONAL  
RECOGNITION FOR PROVIDING QUALITY CARDIOVASCULAR AND STROKE CARE**

*Heart/Stroke Recognition Program measures performance  
in key areas of cardiovascular and stroke care*

WASHINGTON—The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) today announced that Naveen Saxena of Greenville has received Recognition from the Heart/Stroke Recognition Program for providing quality care to HIS patients with cardiovascular disease or who have had a stroke.

The Heart/Stroke Recognition Program was designed to improve the quality of care that patients with cardiovascular disease or who have had a stroke receive by recognizing clinicians who deliver quality cardiovascular and stroke care, and by motivating other clinicians to document and improve their delivery of cardiovascular and stroke care. To receive recognition, which is valid for three years, Naveen Saxena submitted data that demonstrates performance that meets the Program's key cardiovascular and stroke care measures. These measures include blood pressure and cholesterol control, among others. When people with cardiovascular disease or who have had a stroke receive quality care as outlined by these measures, they are less likely to suffer additional complications, such as a second heart attack or stroke.

"Quality patient care translates into lives saved," said Sidney Smith, Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Past President and Past Chief Science Officer of the American Heart Association. "This is why the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association is supporting a recognition program for clinicians providing quality care. This program closes the gap by putting into practice American Heart Association/American Stroke Association guidelines and statements to fight heart disease and stroke."

To find out if your clinician has been recognized by the Heart/Stroke Recognition Program or for further information, please visit [www.ncqa.org/HSRP](http://www.ncqa.org/HSRP). To order application materials, call (888) 275-7585 or order online at [web.ncqa.org/hsrppubs.aspx](http://web.ncqa.org/hsrppubs.aspx).

More than 60 million Americans have one or more types of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, responsible for approximately 950,000 deaths each year. Approximately 700,000 Americans suffer a stroke each year; stroke is the third-leading cause of death and a leading cause of severe, long-term disability. Despite evidence that reducing cholesterol levels and controlling high blood pressure prevent further health complications, many cardiac and stroke patients are not treated effectively for these symptoms.

The American Heart Association spent almost \$389 million during fiscal year 2001-2002 on research support, public and professional education, and community programs. The organization has more than 22.5 million volunteers and supporters carrying out its mission in communities across the country. The association is the largest voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, which annually kill about 950,000 Americans.

The goal of the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, is to raise awareness of stroke and reduce disability and death from stroke. In its 2001-2002 fiscal year, the American Stroke Association spent almost \$86 million on stroke-related research and education programs.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2010, NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA's Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA is committed to providing health care quality information for consumers, purchasers, health care providers and researchers.

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