NPA leader Dr. Steve Smith and Team Publish
“The Top 5 Lists in Primary Care: Meeting the Responsibility of Professionalism”

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Describing the results of an NPA project inspired by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation’s Physician Charter on Medical Professionalism, an article published today in the Archives of Internal Medicine explains how physician panels in the primary care specialties of family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics identified common clinical activities that could lead to higher quality care and better use of finite clinical resources: “The Top 5 Lists in Primary Care: Meeting the Responsibility of Professionalism.”

“Americans are concerned about the quality and cost of health care,” says project leader Dr. Stephen R. Smith. “Unfortunately, some elements of the health care system include expensive practices that do not improve health and in some cases cause harm. Practicing responsible medicine means always doing what is best for the patient while being mindful that resources are finite and that doing more does not always mean better care. The National Physicians Alliance believes that every American deserves high quality and affordable health care.”

The "Top 5" lists in each specialty reflect common clinical activities in primary care where the quality of care could be improved. The recommendations made by the panels of NPA doctors are strongly supported by the scientific evidence and would lead to significant health benefits and reduce risks, harms, and costs. The NPA is planning a second phase to its Good Stewardship project in which the "Top 5" lists will be put into practice.

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Uniting physicians across medical specialties, the National Physicians Alliance creates research and education programs that promote active engagement of health care providers with their communities to achieve high quality, affordable health care for all. The NPA offers a professional home to physicians who share a commitment to professional integrity and health justice.