



**Atlantic
Health System**

Media Contact Pam Garretson,
Manager, Public Relations
Telephone 973-971-4932
Email Pamela.Garretson@atlantichhealth.org

For Immediate Release

ATLANTIC HEALTH SYSTEM LAUNCHES PRIMARY CARE PARTNERS, AN AFFILIATED PHYSICIAN NETWORK, WITH FIRST FIVE MEDICAL PRACTICES

MORRISTOWN, NJ--NOVEMBER 1, 2011 – Atlantic Health System (AHS) announced that seven family practice and internal medicine physician groups from Morris, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties have joined Primary Care Partners, a newly-created, AHS-affiliated primary care network of physicians designed to improve patient care in northern New Jersey. Offering practice management solutions that enable primary care physicians to focus more time on patients while meeting the demands of a changing healthcare environment, Primary Care Partners expects to quickly expand its physician network to better serve AHS area communities.

Primary Care Partners has contracted with Continuum Health Alliance, LLC (Continuum), a leading healthcare management company, to provide an array of business services including information technology solutions, operational and administrative support, scheduling and patient navigation systems, customer service training, revenue cycle management, and other practice management solutions.

The inaugural Primary Care Partners member practices include:

Peter Orlic, MD, Bernardsville

Jeffrey Merkle, MD, Hackettstown

East Brunswick Family Practice Associates, East Brunswick

- Toby Geller, MD
- Patricia Nee, MD
- James Marmora, MD

Eastern Vascular Associates, Denville

- Bruce Mintz, DO
- Michael Gironta, DO
- Jose Lopez, MD

Bernards Family Practice, Basking Ridge

- Joseph Morandi, DO
- Elizabeth Drews, PA-C

Morris Family Medicine Associates, PA, Morris Plains

- Charles Joseph, MD
- Maria Lijo, MD
- Kelly Walsh, DO

Scaduto & Renz Medical Associates, Boonton

- Phillip Scadulto, MD
- Patricia Renz, MD

“We are working on innovative solutions to help physicians prepare for the future of health care and continuously exploring ways to give primary care physicians the support they need to best care for their patients,” said David Shulkin, MD, president, Morristown Medical Center, and vice president, Atlantic Health System. “Physicians within Primary Care Partners will be able to dedicate more time to their patients and deliver care more efficiently and effectively as they receive support for the management of their practice.”

About Atlantic Health System

[Atlantic Health System](#) is one of the largest non-profit health care systems in New Jersey, comprised of [Morristown Medical Center](#), [Overlook Medical Center](#) in Summit and [Newton Medical Center](#). The three medical centers -- all accredited by The Joint Commission -- have a combined total of 1,308 licensed beds and more than 2,750 affiliated physicians providing a wide array of health care services to the residents of Northern and Central New Jersey. Specialty service areas include advanced cardiovascular care, pediatric medical and surgical specialties, neurology, orthopedics, and sports medicine. Each of these programs has earned top ratings and recognitions in their respective fields. Atlantic Health System is the official health care partner of the New York Jets and an official health care provider of the New Jersey Devils.

Morristown Medical Center’s Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute performs more heart surgeries than any other hospital in New York or New Jersey, and is one of 20 facilities across the country to perform catheter-based repair and replacement of valves on both sides of the heart. Atlantic Health System’s spine program – where surgeons perform more spine surgery than anywhere else in New Jersey – is one of just 13 hospitals across the country that has received the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission, achieving Disease-Specific Care Certification for cervical and lumbar spine treatments. With the Atlantic Neuroscience Institute based at Overlook Medical Center, the hospital serves as the hub for the New Jersey Stroke Network, and serves about 40 percent of the state’s stroke patients. The system’s Goryeb Children’s Hospital offers more than 100 board-certified physicians in 20 pediatric specialties. Morristown Medical Center is designated a Level I Regional Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons and a Level II by the state of New Jersey.

Atlantic Health System has been chosen for the past three consecutive years by FORTUNE® as one of the magazine’s “100 Best Companies to Work For®.” The organization has also been recognized four times by AARP as one of the “Best Employers for Workers over 50.” *Inside Jersey* magazine partnered with Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. and ranked Morristown Medical Center as the No. 1 hospital in New Jersey and the No. 1 hospital for treatment of heart failure and coronary surgery in the state. The survey findings also establish Overlook as No.1 for the treatment of neurological disorders and No. 2 for stroke treatment in NJ. Atlantic Health System is a Major Clinical Research Affiliate with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and is the primary academic and clinical affiliate in New Jersey of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mount Sinai Hospital.

Continuum Health Alliance, LLC (“Continuum”) is a regional healthcare management company founded in 1998 by nationally-renowned pediatrician John M. Tedeschi, MD. Continuum offers operational oversight and administrative services enabling physician groups to better serve their patients. The Company’s services include administrative support, finance and revenue cycle management and information

technology. Continuum also assists hospitals in establishing and managing medical care networks, hospitalist programs and other hospital-based programs. Learn more at www.challc.net.

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