

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**DR. ROBERT GORDON HUTCHEON RECEIVES CERTIFICATION IN HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE**

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Robert Gordon Hutcheon, M.D. has been certified in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Hutcheon joins more than 2,800 fellow physicians to have achieved such certification.

Hospice and palliative medicine is the medical discipline of the broad therapeutic model known as hospice and palliative care. The discipline and model of care are devoted to achieving the best possible quality of life for the patient and family throughout the course of a life-threatening illness through the relief of suffering and the control of symptoms. Hospice and palliative medicine helps the patient, family and significant others face the prospect of death assured that comfort will be a priority, values and decisions will be respected, spiritual and psychosocial needs will be addressed, practical support will be available and opportunities will exist for growth and development.

Dr. Hutcheon has been the Medical Director of Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center since 2000. He has over 25 years experience in pediatric practice. His commitment to the children of the Pediatric Center extends to chairing the Ethics Committee, membership on the Pain Management and Palliative Care Committees, as well as playing guitar in the Caterpillars, an in-house rock band playing exclusively for the children and families of the Center.

The American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine was formed in 1995 to establish and measure the level of knowledge, attitudes and skills required for certification of physicians practicing hospice and palliative medicine. To be eligible to sit for the certifying examination, applicants must have received prior major specialty certification, practiced at least two years following residency, worked as a member of an interdisciplinary team for at least two years and have directly participated in the active care of at least fifty terminally ill patients in the preceding three years. Alternatively, applicants must have completed specialty fellowship training in palliative medicine. The fellowship training program must be at least one year in length and must meet the established voluntary standards for such a program. ABHPM has conducted its certification examination in Hospice and Palliative Medicine annually throughout the United States and Canada since the certification program was first offered a decade ago. In September 2006, the American Board of Medical Specialties ABMS voted to grant the discipline of Hospice and Palliative Medicine official status as a recognized subspecialty. Information on the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine including a listing of certified physicians may be obtained from the website at [www.abhpm.org](http://www.abhpm.org).

The Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center is committed to *changing the lives of medically fragile children, one child at a time*. All programs are centered on resident children and their families, respecting individual cultural beliefs and practices. Each child admitted to the Center enters a "Neighborhood" where they receive team-based trans-disciplinary care, including medicine, nursing, social services, palliative care, mental health, rehabilitation, education, nutrition, child life/therapeutic activity, pastoral care and more. As Manhattan's only pediatric nursing facility, Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center plays a matchless role among New York health care providers. To learn more please visit [www.setonpediatric.org](http://www.setonpediatric.org).

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