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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Crown Health Care Joins Cornerstone**

Hickory, NC – Crown Health Care, a full service primary care practice with five locations in the greater Hickory area, joined Cornerstone Health Care on June 1, according to Anne C. Hill, Chief Executive Officer of Crown. “The new partnership with Cornerstone will provide us with greater economies of scale and stronger internal infrastructure in many operational areas including information technology, risk management, human resources, customer service training and quality monitoring. This type of multi-specialty infrastructure is necessary to meet the challenges of the changing health care market. As a physician-owned medical group with strong physician leadership guiding a transition to value-based care, Cornerstone’s practice philosophy is a perfect match for Crown.”

She added that the Crown physicians will maintain their privileges with the two hospitals serving their area – Frye Regional Medical Center and Catawba Valley Medical Center – and that the new partnership will expand Crown’s participation with major insurance payers and many Medicare replacement insurances.

“We are honored that this well-respected group of 19 primary care providers has chosen to become a part of Cornerstone,” said Grace E. Terrell, MD, President and CEO of Cornerstone. “Crown patients will continue to benefit from the convenience of five Catawba Valley locations, while this affiliation will provide them with access to our sophisticated electronic medical record, and all the initiatives we have introduced to enhance our quality of care while lowering health care costs.”

Crown Health Care was established in 1998. Its five practices include Medical Arts Clinic, Springs Road Family Practice and Generations Family Medicine and Aesthetics in Hickory, Conover Family Practice in Conover, and Granite Falls Primary Care Physicians, in Granite Falls, NC. More information about Cornerstone Health Care and its newest partner, Crown Health Care, is available at [www.cornerstonehealth.com](http://www.cornerstonehealth.com) and [www.crownhealth.net](http://www.crownhealth.net).

Cornerstone Health Care is a group of more than 300 physicians and mid-level health professionals representing a wide range of specialties. The physician-owned and managed multi-disciplinary practice has over 75 locations in communities throughout central North Carolina. One of the fastest growing physician groups in the Southeast, Cornerstone is transitioning from the traditional "fee-for-service" model to a patient-centered medical home system providing expanded access, increased coordination of care, enhanced patient education for prevention and treatment of chronic disease, and sophisticated technological support. For more information visit [www.cornerstonehealth.com](http://www.cornerstonehealth.com).