

December 14, 2018

Mariann MacDonald  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
NCH Naples Hospital Inc.  
350 7<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Naples, FL 34102

Dear Mrs. MacDonald:

The Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians strongly condemns the decision of Naples Community Hospital governing body to prevent patients' primary care physicians from treating their own patients at the Hospital.

The American College of Physicians is the largest specialty society, representing all Internal Medicine and its sub-specialties.

The internist is dedicated to the patient and the long-term continuity of care that comprises the physician-patient relationship. It is unconscionable that any entity would seek to disrupt that relationship for any reasons, especially one based on financial concerns. The Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians fully opposes the decision of Naples Community Hospital to prevent physicians from taking care of their own patients in the hospital. This reprehensible action violates the very core of the relationship created between patient and physician. In addition, the closing of the hospital to non-employed physicians is not based on any scientific data or quality measures and jeopardizes the health and well-being of the patients.

This action attacks the very foundation of the community created by the physicians in the area who are responsible for the health of that community. We ask that Naples Community hospital immediately rescind this outrageous policy in order to allow patients to be cared for by the physicians who know them best. The Florida Chapter stands with our colleagues in Naples and is fully committed to ensure the rights of patients to choose their doctors and the rights of physicians to continue to take care of their patients.

Respectfully,



Jason M. Goldman, MD, FACP  
Governor/President, Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians