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## *Meet The Founder*

# **George M. Rapier III, M.D., Builds WellMed Into South Texas Healthcare Giant**



**George M. Rapier III, M.D.**, serves as Chairman and CEO of **WellMed Medical Management, Inc.** Headquartered in San Antonio, TX, it is South Texas' largest physician-owned practice management company, specializing in senior health care.

Dr. Rapier also holds the same titles with WellMed's sister company, **WellMed Medical Group, P.A.**, which owns 30 healthcare clinics in the Greater San Antonio area and along Florida's Treasure Coast. WellMed also serves patients through more than 50 affiliated physicians' offices across the Greater San Antonio area and through 60 independent physicians in Greater Orlando. In all, more than 80,000 patients are served through WellMed.

Dr. Rapier is a Dallas native who earned his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine. He interned at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and also completed his residency here. Since 1985, Dr. Rapier has been an assistant professor of medicine at the UT Health Science Center.

Over the years, Dr. Rapier developed a large and successful internal medicine practice while also concentrating on improving skills in physician and staff management. In 1990, he founded WellMed Medical Management, formerly known as Princeton Medical Management Resources, and WellMed Medical Group.

Since the beginning, Dr. Rapier has made senior care, and improving delivery of healthcare services, a priority for WellMed. Dr. Rapier has chaired a number of crucial committees required for medical group expansion and gained significant knowledge relevant to the changing payor and income structure in the medical group practice of today.

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Dr. Rapier spearheaded the implementation of a groundbreaking Electronic Medical Records project at the medical group practice in October 1994. All WellMed clinics now have access to the system and ongoing training is available to all providers. Updates continue to customize the program to fit the needs of a primary care practice in the managed care environment. The latest update was the development of a completely portable and personal EMR that patients carry so Caregivers can have the latest critical medical facts sourced from the Physician EMR.

Dr. Rapier spearheaded the development of Clinical Health Protocol Screening software to access and evaluate clinical, lab, medication data and provide preventive health and screening recommendations to physicians. WellMed has established a clinical research program under his guidance and supervision.

Dr. Rapier has developed and continues to work with specialists in the community to implement disease management programs to enhance the quality of life of WellMed's patient program. WellMed's disease management program was recognized in 2008 by the non-profit DMAA: The Care Continuum Alliance for "outstanding achievements in and contributions to the science and practice of chronic disease care."

In 2006, Dr. Rapier established a personal non-profit charity, the Blake, Kymberly and George Rapier Charitable Trust. He and his wife, Kymberly, are the executors of the Rapier Charitable Trust, which has distributed nearly \$3 million to local charitable causes since forming in 2006. Through the Trust, which focuses on causes that benefit children and education, the elderly and homeless animals, the Rapiers will distribute more than \$1 million to local charities in 2009.

Among the early beneficiaries of the Rapier Charitable Trust has been Communities In Schools of San Antonio, Bexar County's largest stay-in-school network, which has received more than \$650,000 from the Trust.

Dr. Rapier was instrumental in establishing the WellMed Charitable Foundation. In October 2007, the WellMed Charitable Foundation awarded the City of San Antonio with a \$350,000 check to sponsor free influenza vaccinations for the community and brought the first Leeza's Place – a free community resource for caregivers – to Texas with Leeza's Place at WellMed. A second Leeza's Place opened August 2008 at the Bob Ross Senior Center in the San Antonio Medical Center.

Both the WellMed Charitable Foundation and the Rapier Charitable Trust are funding a three-year, \$750,000 program to reduce the risk of obesity and diabetes in the South San Antonio Independent School District. The program, called Bienestar, works with 18,000 students, teachers, food service staff and parents in the largely Hispanic-populated

school system, focusing on increasing daily physical activity and consumption of fruits, vegetables and whole grain products.

Dr. Rapier serves as a Board Director for the San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Boysville of Texas.

*WellMed Medical Management is a diversified healthcare company and insurance provider serving more than 80,000 patients and insured members, mostly Medicare-eligible seniors in Texas, Florida, Arkansas and New Mexico. WellMed is an industry leader in medical risk management, highly effective disease management and chronic care programs, healthcare delivery services, and more.*

*WellMed is South Texas' largest physician-owned practice management company, specializing in senior health care since 1990. With more than 30 medical clinics in Texas and Florida, the mission of the healthcare company and insurance provider is to change the face of healthcare delivery for seniors.*