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HealthMetrix Research Selects 2009 Medicare Advantage Plans for Best Overall Benefit Value

COLUMBUS, Ohio (October 30, 2008) – Medicare Advantage plans in 87 cities will be recognized for best overall value in the design of their 2009 medical and Part D prescription drug benefits for seniors. The 2009 Senior Choice Gold Award recipients were selected from over 200 Medicare managed care plans based on independent cost-sharing comparisons conducted annually by HealthMetrix Research Inc. and MedicareNewsWatch.com. According to HealthMetrix Research Inc. president Alan Mittermaier:

"These forward-looking independent comparisons provide Medicare beneficiaries with true out-of-pocket costs associated with joining a Medicare Advantage plan. Each award recipient has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the design of their 2009 Medicare plan benefits, copayments, deductibles and premiums including the Part D prescription drug benefits. HealthMetrix Research applauds these organizations and we are confident that informed seniors can rely on the Senior Choice Gold Award recognition when selecting a Medicare Advantage plan during the 2009 enrollment season."

The award criteria were based on 2009 benefits and cost-sharing approved by Medicare for the selected plans. Estimated annual out-of-pocket costs consider beneficiaries' health status (healthy, episodic, chronic) and utilization of the most common health plan benefits (physician office visits, emergency care, hospital care, prevention care, prescriptions). HealthMetrix Research cost-sharing comparisons for over 100 cities are available at www.MedicareNewsWatch.com. HealthMetrix Research neither recommends nor endorses specific Medicare plans.

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Source: HealthMetrix Research Inc. www.MedicareNewsWatch.com

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2009 Senior Choice Gold Award Recipients

East

Albany	Fidelis Care
Allentown	Unison Health Plan
Atlanta	WellCare
Boston-Worcester	Secure Horizons
Bradenton-Sarasota	Optimum Healthcare
Buffalo	WellCare
Charleston	Southeast Community Care
Fort Lauderdale	Optimum Healthcare
Fort Myers	Optimum Healthcare
Greensboro	Coventry Health Care
Greenville-Spartanburg	Southeast Community Care
Harrisburg	Unison Health Plan
Hartford-Bridgeport	WellCare
Jacksonville	Optimum Healthcare
Lakeland	Optimum Healthcare
Miami	Summit Health Plan
New Haven	Secure Horizons
New Jersey (Bergen, Ocean)	Secure Horizons
(Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic, Union)	WellCare
New York City (Bronx, Kings, Manhattan, Nassau, Queens Staten Island)	Liberty Health Advantage
(Rockland)	Fidelis Care
(Suffolk)	HIP
(Westchester)	Touchstone Health
Ocala	Optimum Healthcare
Orlando	Optimum Healthcare
Pensacola	Optimum Healthcare
Philadelphia	Bravo Health
Pittsburgh	Unison Health Plan
Providence	Secure Horizons
Raleigh	Coventry Health Care
Richmond	Secure Horizons
Rochester	WellCare
Savannah	WellCare
Tallahassee	Freedom Health
Syracuse	Touchstone Health
Tampa-St. Petersburg	Optimum Healthcare
Washington DC	Bravo Health
West Palm Beach	Quality Health Plans

Midwest

Akron-Canton	WellCare
Baton Rouge	Humana
Champaign-Urbana	WellCare
Chattanooga	Windsor Health Group
Chicago-Joliet	WellCare
Cincinnati	WellCare
Cleveland	WellCare
Columbus	WellCare

Des Moines	Coventry Health Care
Fort Wayne	WellCare
Grand Rapids	Secure Horizons
Jackson, MS	Windsor Health Group
Kansas City	Coventry Health Care
Knoxville	Windsor Health Group
Indianapolis	WellCare
Little Rock	Physicians Health Choice
Louisville	Essence Healthcare
Memphis	Unison Health Plan
Minneapolis-St. Paul	UCare Minnesota
Milwaukee	Today's Health
Mobile	HealthSpring
Nashville	Windsor Health Group
Omaha	Coventry Health Care
St. Louis	WellCare
South Bend	WellCare
Springfield-Joplin	Coventry Health Care
Wichita	Coventry Health Care

West

Austin	Physicians Health Choice
Bakersfield	GEMCare
Colorado Springs	Colorado Access
Corpus Christi	Physicians Health Choice
Dallas-Fort Worth	WellCare
Denver	Kaiser Permanente
Flagstaff	Desert Canyon Community Care
Fresno	Aetna
Honolulu	WellCare
Houston	WellCare
Las Cruces	Physicians Health Choice
Las Vegas	Humana
Los Angeles (Los Angeles County)	Citizens Choice Healthplan
(Orange County)	Citizens Choice Healthplan
(Riverside County)	Care1st
(San Bernardino County)	Care1st
(Ventura County)	Aetna
Oakland-Walnut Creek	Secure Horizons
Phoenix	CIGNA
Reno	Health Plan of Nevada
Sacramento	Secure Horizons
Salt Lake City	Humana
San Antonio	WellCare
San Diego	Care1st
San Francisco	Secure Horizons
South San Francisco-Daly City	Secure Horizons
San Jose	CareMore
Spokane	Secure Horizons
Tucson	Humana
Tulsa	Generations Healthcare
Yakima &Tri-Cities	Community HealthFirst