



Michigan Association of Health Plans

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Independent Evaluation Ranks Michigan Health Plans Among Best in Nation

US News-NCQA Report Highlights Excellence of Michigan Plans

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Lansing, Mich. — Michigan Association of Health Plans (MAHP) member health plans are among the best in the nation once again, according to the independent U.S. *News & World Report/NCQA America's Best Health Plans 2008*.

MAHP member Health Maintenance Organizations were among the highest ranked in all three categories: commercial, Medicare and Medicaid. Ranking criteria included clinical performance, member satisfaction and accreditation by the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA). Michigan's leadership in quality improvement, transparency and measurement is clearly underscored in the ranking outcomes.

Michigan placed five HMOs in the top 50 commercial plans: Grand Valley Health Plan, Priority Health, HealthPlus of Michigan, Health Alliance Plan of Michigan and Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan.

Two Michigan companies were ranked in the top 25 of Medicare plans: Health Alliance Plan of Michigan and HealthPlus of Michigan. Four were in the top 25 of Medicaid plans: Priority Health, Health Plan of Michigan, Upper Peninsula Health Plan and Great Lakes Health Plan.

Michigan ranked third among the states in the number of health plans earning recognition, behind only Massachusetts and New York.

"This reflects well on our industry as a whole in Michigan," said David Crosby, chair of the Michigan Association of Health Plans and CEO and President of HealthPlus. "Our HMOs are well aware of the importance of making sure our patients are highly satisfied with the service they receive from their plan."

"We are extremely proud of the performance record of Michigan's health plans that has now been reaffirmed again by the NCQA/US News and World Report Rankings. Michigan needs to ensure that this kind of quality continues to be available to all Michigan citizens," said Richard Murdock, executive director of MAHP.

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Murdock said the proposed Blue Cross bailout bills would make it more difficult for health plans to maintain their high national rankings because it would impose a new tax on them, raising costs for customers and potentially making HMO products less attractive to Michigan families.

“The unintended consequences of House bills 5282 and 5283 are great. It is important for lawmakers to hold additional hearings to allow the public and members to understand how these bills hurt many providers while they help Blue Cross overcome its own past management decisions,” he said.

The Michigan Association of Health Plans (MAHP) is an industry voice for Michigan’s health care plans. MAHP facilitates communication among members, government, and the industry regarding health care issues of common concern. The mission of the Michigan Association of Health Plans is to provide leadership for the promotion and advocacy of high quality, affordable, accessible health care for the citizens of Michigan.

The report uses NCQA information to analyze data from reporting health plans nationwide. This in-depth, independent, review of the nation’s health plans provides objective rankings of the nation’s health plans, located on the Web at: <http://health.usnews.com/sections/health/health-plans/index.html>.

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