



Michigan Association of Health Plans

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Two MAHP members to manage high-risk health insurance pool in Michigan

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Priority Health and Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan have been selected by the State of Michigan to manage a high-risk pool under the Affordable Care Act, the federal health care reform law passed earlier this year, the Michigan Office of Insurance and Financial Regulation announced today.

The two non-profit companies have extensive experience in dealing with populations with serious, complex health conditions, being among the leaders in managing the state's Medicaid population with a strong track record of holding down costs and providing quality care. U.S. citizens and legal residents who have a pre-existing medical condition and have not had creditable health coverage for the previous six months are eligible for coverage in the high-risk pool.

"We are proud that two members of the Michigan Association of Health Plans have stepped up to provide this valuable service to Michigan," said Rick Murdock, executive director of MAHP. "They will be taking on the task of managing health care to patients with pre-existing conditions that make them difficult for traditional insurance plans to cover at affordable rates. This may include those who have serious illnesses or conditions and disabilities."

"Priority Health accepts this responsibility because it is consistent with our mission," said Kim Horn, CEO and President at Priority Health. "We were the first health plan in Michigan to enroll a member in the MICHild program, we're the only health plan in Michigan to earn five stars from CMS for our Medicare program, and we've long served the Medicaid population. Our proven track record of helping people better manage their chronic conditions will be important for this group of members."

"This new role allows us to build on our 29-year tradition of providing accessible care with high quality," said Scott Wilkerson, President and CEO of Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan. "PHP has earned a well-deserved reputation for extraordinary member service – a reputation that has drawn national attention. PHP is ranked as one of the nation's best health care plans by *U.S. News and World Report*. PHP has a long history of partnering with the State of Michigan on health issues. Our new members will find what existing PHP members have long known -- that our approach ensures they receive high-quality clinical care and service from our extensive network of providers and hospitals."

The high risk pool will operate until Jan. 1, 2014, when the federal law requires all insurers to eliminate restrictions on pre-existing conditions. The federal government is expected to provide \$141 million over the next three years to subsidize the pool.

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"This is an important step toward providing accessible and affordable health care to all in Michigan through health insurance plans," said Murdock. "MAHP members are committed to implementing the federal law in a way that will ensure high quality care for all."

The Michigan Association of Health Plans (MAHP) is an industry voice for 19 health care plans, covering over 2.1 million Michigan residents, and 45 businesses affiliated with the health care industry. MAHP facilitates communication among members, government, and the industry regarding health care issues of common concern.

Priority Health is a nonprofit health benefits company nationally recognized for creating innovative solutions that impact health care costs while maximizing the customer experience. It offers a broad portfolio of products for employer groups, individuals and Medicare and Medicaid enrollees. The company serves more than 600,000 people and continues to be rated as one of America's Best Health Plans by U.S. News & World Report and the National Committee for Quality Assurance. For more information visit www.priorityhealth.com.

Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan is a not-for-profit health plan with a wide range of products offered to groups and to Medicaid enrollees. PHP, which is owned by Sparrow Health System, has an award-winning record of service excellence to customers and has consistently been ranked among the top 50 health plans in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. It has also been rated the No. 1 health plan in overall member satisfaction in Michigan by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. For more information visit www.phpmm.org.

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