



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ACCOUNTABLE CARE COALITION of NORTHEAST GEORGIA GENERATED \$5.4 MILLION IN TOTAL SAVINGS FOR THE MEDICARE SHARED SAVINGS PROGRAM

Achievement in Both Healthcare Quality and Medicare Savings

TAMPA, Florida, and AUGUSTA, Georgia - January 7, 2019) – Collaborative Health Systems, a WellCare Health Plans, Inc. (NYSE: WCG) company, announced today that providers in the Accountable Care Coalition of Northeast Georgia have generated \$5.4 million in total savings for the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) for performance year 2017, according to figures released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

In the 2017 performance year, total savings to Medicare were \$5.4 million and shared savings earned by providers were over \$2.4 million. This is the first year that the Accountable Care Coalition of Northeast Georgia, a Medicare Accountable Care Organization (ACO) created in 2016, has achieved both total savings to Medicare and shared savings for its providers.

Providers in the Accountable Care Coalition of Northeast Georgia also achieved an overall quality score of 92.1 percent. The ACO achieved significant improvement in 9 of 30 ACO quality measures, within the preventive health and care coordination/patient safety domains.

Medicare ACOs are groups of doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers who come together voluntarily to provide coordinated high-quality care to their Medicare beneficiaries, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of services and preventing medical errors. When an ACO exceeds quality and financial thresholds – demonstrating achievement of high-quality care and wiser spending of healthcare dollars – it is able to share in the savings generated for Medicare.

“We are extremely proud to have generated, in our second year of operation, total savings plus shared savings for our providers and the Medicare program,” said Dr. Faheem B. Nusrat, medical director, Accountable Care Coalition of Northeast Georgia. “Medicare beneficiaries in our ACO had fewer hospitalizations and emergency room visits, which demonstrated our commitment to high-quality preventive care, such as influenza immunization, and chronic illness management. We are grateful the MSSP ACO program allows us to demonstrate how we can provide increasing value to the healthcare system and for our over 7,400 Medicare Fee-For-Service beneficiaries.”

Anthony Valdés, president of CHS, praised ACO physicians for providing high-quality, lower-cost care while embracing a value-based model that will help them retain their independence. “The outstanding performance of the Accountable Care Coalition of Northeast Georgia this year, in only their second year in the Medicare Shared Savings Program, demonstrates that physicians can thrive while embracing new value-based payment models that prioritize quality. Collaborative Health Systems looks forward to continuing to assist our provider partners with taking on progressively higher levels of risk while deepening patient relationships, maintaining high-quality care, and lowering costs.”

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About the Accountable Care Coalition of Northeast Georgia

The Accountable Care Coalition of Northeast Georgia is an MSSP ACO focused on value-based healthcare. Our providers, who are located in Georgia and South Carolina, are dedicated to improving the quality of health care and lowering the growth rate of health care costs. The Accountable Care Coalition of Northeast Georgia participates in the Medicare Shared Savings Program under a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. For more information, visit accnegeorgia.com.

About Collaborative Health Systems

Collaborative Health Systems (CHS), a WellCare Company, is a management services organization that partners with primary care physicians as they move to value-based payment systems. Its core belief is that primary care physicians are in the best position to influence the quality and cost of healthcare. CHS provides comprehensive support for its physician partners by providing management services, risk contracting, and population health capabilities, including actionable data and other tools to deliver care coordination and closure of gaps in care. CHS provides additional services to secure and deliver favorable value-based contracts with commercial and other health plans.

As of November 2018, CHS manages two Next Generation Model ACOs and 15 Medicare Shared Savings Program ACOs, covering 169,000 Medicare beneficiaries. In addition, CHS partners with physician groups that have come together to form Independent Physician Associations (IPAs). For more information, visit www.CollaborativeHealthSystems.com.

About WellCare Health Plans

Headquartered in Tampa, Fla., WellCare Health Plans, Inc. (NYSE: WCG) focuses primarily on providing government-sponsored managed care services to families, children, seniors and individuals with complex medical needs primarily through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, as well as individuals in the Health Insurance Marketplace. WellCare serves approximately 5.5 million members nationwide as of September 30, 2018. For more information about WellCare, please visit the company's website at www.wellcare.com.

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References: [2017 Shared Savings Program \(SSP\) Accountable Care Organizations \(ACO\) Public-Use File](#)