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Enrollment in HealthSpring STAR+PLUS Now Open to Valley Residents

Beneficiaries May Choose HealthSpring's Integrated Acute Care and Long-Term Care Services

HARLINGEN, Texas (December 1, 2011) — HealthSpring today announced that Medicaid clients who are over age 65 or have a disability and live in the Hidalgo Service Area may now choose to enroll in the HealthSpring STAR+PLUS plan. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) chose HealthSpring to serve the STAR+PLUS population in the Hidalgo Service Area, which includes 10 counties in South Texas: Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Maverick, McMullen, Starr, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata.

HealthSpring has a history of providing access to high quality, coordinated healthcare in Texas. The company has offered Medicare Advantage plans in the state since 2002, serving more than 80,000 members in Texas, with about 7,500 of those living in Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy Counties. HealthSpring has also served Medicaid beneficiaries in the Dallas/Fort Worth market (through its Bravo Health company) as a part of the expansion of Texas' STAR+PLUS program since early 2011.

“We’ve been working to cultivate strong partnerships in the Valley since 2005, and we have a deep understanding of the needs and challenges facing both patients and providers in the region,” said Benjy Green, vice president, HealthSpring of Texas. “That experience combined with our focus on care coordination greatly strengthens HealthSpring’s ability to successfully serve senior and disabled populations here. I believe residents in the Valley will see what an excellent choice HealthSpring STAR+PLUS is as they learn more about the value of the benefits we offer.”

The STAR+PLUS program combines health and long-term services to elderly and people with disabilities, enabling them to achieve improved health and wellness access, quality outcomes at home or in assisted living facilities. Under the STAR+PLUS program, HealthSpring arranges for a continuum of care with a variety of options and flexibility to meet individual needs.

Through STAR+PLUS, HealthSpring provides eligible enrollees with a wide range of quality health care services including:

- Primary and specialty provider care
- Medical supplies
- Mental health care and substance use disorder treatment
- Hospital care



With HealthSpring, enrollees may receive extra benefits such as:

- Extra dental services*
- Vision services, including eye glasses*
- Over-the-counter medications, up to \$10 monthly allowance*
- Enhanced transportation services*
- Toll-free 24-hour nurse advice line

** These benefits are for Medicaid-only. Those with Medicare will continue to receive these types of benefits through Medicare. For beneficiaries who are dual eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, participating in STAR+PLUS will not affect Medicare benefits and vice versa, rather beneficiaries will receive comprehensive and complimentary health coverage through both programs.*

The STAR+PLUS managed care program has yielded proven, positive results for beneficiaries. HHSC reports that STAR+PLUS beneficiaries enrolled in managed care have lower rates of inpatient stays and ER visits. Additionally, HHSC reports improved clinical outcomes and improved access to care when compared to Medicaid beneficiaries not enrolled in managed care.

HHSC selected HealthSpring as one of three health plans to serve the approximately 65,000 STAR+PLUS members in the region. STAR+PLUS beneficiaries may choose to select one of the three health plans or be automatically enrolled by the proposed program start date on March 1, 2012.

To enroll in STAR+PLUS, call the STAR+PLUS Helpline at 1-800-964-2777 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time. To learn more about the HealthSpring STAR+PLUS plan, call HealthSpring toll-free at 1-877-653-0327 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time, or visit www.starplus.myhealthspring.com.

About HealthSpring

HealthSpring is based in Nashville, Tennessee, and is one of the country's largest Medicare Advantage coordinated care plans. HealthSpring currently owns and operates Medicare Advantage plans in Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Washington, D.C. Beginning in 2012, the Company will also operate Medicare Advantage plans in West Virginia. HealthSpring also offers a national stand-alone Medicare prescription drug plan. For more information, visit www.healthspring.com.

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