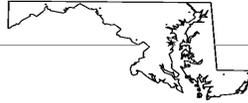# MARYLAND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRAFT

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Maryland Health Insurance Plan Network Grows, Agreement Signed with MedStar

Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP) announced today that it has reached an agreement with MedStar Health, which will bring the number of physicians providing care to MHIP enrollees to over 8,000. MedStar Health is a major not-for-profit community-based health organization that has seven major hospitals and 800 employed physicians in the Baltimore/Washington area.

MHIP is the state-administered high-risk health insurance program that currently serves 6,600 Marylanders. MHIP began health plan operations in May, 2003 and started providing health care coverage on July 1, 2003. Maryland Physicians Care serves as the MHIP plan administrator. Maryland Physicians Care is owned by four Maryland community-based health systems: Maryland General Health System, St. Agnes HealthCare, Washington County Health System in Hagerstown and Western Maryland Health System in Cumberland.

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"We are very pleased to be working with MedStar Health," said Richard Popper, MHIP's Executive Director. "MedStar Health's reputation for clinical excellence includes cardiology, cardiac surgery, oncology service, transplantation, neurosciences, rehabilitation, orthopedic surgery, women's services and emergency and trauma care."

MedStar Health's hospitals include three in the D.C. area—Washington Hospital Center, Georgetown University Hospital and National Rehabilitation Hospital—and four in Baltimore—Good Samaritan Hospital of Maryland, Franklin Square Hospital Center, Harbor Hospital and Union Memorial Hospital.

"The addition of MedStar Health to our provider network will be a tremendous benefit," said Don Blanchon, chief executive officer of Schaller Anderson of Maryland, L.L.C., which manages Maryland Physicians Care. "This is an outstanding system."

Four MedStar hospitals were ranked among the best in the nation in the 2003 edition of "America's Best Hospitals"—Washington Hospital Center, Georgetown University Hospital, National Rehabilitation Hospital and Union Memorial Hospital.

MHIP provides health care coverage to Maryland residents who:

-Have been refused health insurance coverage in the individual market for medical reasons or certain serious health conditions;

-Have HIPAA guaranteed-issue rights through loss of group coverage;

-Have lost employment due to international trade or

-Receive payments from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (including retirees from Bethlehem Steel and former employees of Black and Decker); or

-Transfer from another state's high-risk pool.

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MHIP is governed by a board consisting of Secretary of the Department of Budget and

Management James R. "Chip" DiPaula, Jr., Maryland Insurance Commissioner Alfred W. Redmer, Jr.,

Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission Barbara McLean, Executive Director of the

Health Services Cost Review Commission Robert Murray, insurance producer representative Brad

Mainster, RHU, insurance carrier representative Michael R. Hampton, and consumer member Karen

Pollitz.

More information about MHIP is available from its call center (toll-free 866-780-7105), and applications are available online at *www.marylandhealthinsuranceplan.state.md.us*.

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