



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HealthSpring Opens McAllen Office to Serve Valley STAR+PLUS Medicaid Recipients

90 Local Healthcare Professionals Hired for Harlingen, McAllen, Laredo and Surrounding Areas

MCALLEN, Texas (April 25, 2012) – HealthSpring, a leading health plan in the Rio Grande Valley, opened its office in McAllen this month to provide healthcare services for STAR+PLUS patients in Harlingen, McAllen, Laredo and the surrounding areas. HealthSpring has also hired almost 90 locally based healthcare professionals to serve STAR+PLUS members in the area. All staff members participate in a rigorous 3-week training session in preparation for serving people with disabilities and the senior population in the Valley.

“Offering a variety of options and flexibility to meet individual needs, our professional staff focuses on assuring a continuum of care for the elderly and people with disabilities,” said Benjy R. Green, an Executive Director for HealthSpring. “By combining health and long-term care services, we are able to help these populations access high quality health and wellness care and achieve better results, whether they are at home or in assisted living facilities.”

HealthSpring provides STAR+PLUS 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

“Not only are we pleased to be right here in the community and immediately accessible to those who need our services, we are also excited to be able to make a positive impact on the local economy through the opening of our office and hiring of our staff,” added Green.

At the end of 2011, HealthSpring opened a temporary office in Edinburg while this permanent location in McAllen was prepared. The 5,000 square foot McAllen office will serve as a key support base to serve HealthSpring’s thousands of STAR+PLUS members in the area.

In addition to HealthSpring’s McAllen office, HealthSpring opened a 2,600 square foot office in Laredo in late February to serve local STAR+PLUS members.

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 90,000 members in Texas, with about 10,000 of those living in Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy Counties. HealthSpring has also served Medicaid members in the Dallas/Fort Worth market as a part of the expansion of Texas’ STAR+PLUS program since early 2011.

HealthSpring is one of three health plans to serve the approximately 75,000 STAR+PLUS members in the Valley region. Members were given the option to select one of the three health plans or were

automatically enrolled by the proposed program start date on March 1, 2012. To enroll, members can call the STAR+PLUS Helpline at 1-800-964-2777, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time. For more information about HealthSpring's STAR+PLUS services, call 1-877-653-0327 (TTY at 7-1-1) or visit www.starplus.myhealthspring.com.

About HealthSpring

HealthSpring, a Cigna company, 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, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. HealthSpring also offers a national stand-alone Medicare prescription drug plan. For more information, visit www.healthspring.com.

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