



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 3, 2005

Contact:

Sharon Williams

*Vice President of Marketing and
Business Development*

sharon.williams@unisonhealthplan.com

412.349.4748

www.unisonhealthplan.com

**GOVERNMENT SPONSORED HEALTH CARE LEADER
UNISON HEALTH PLAN BRINGS
QUALITY MANAGED CARE TO OHIO**

Columbus, OH (October 3, 2005) - Beginning October 1, Unison Health Plan will enter into an Agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to coordinate coverage for Ohio Medicaid consumers.

Unison's reputation for quality in government-sponsored health care programs in Pennsylvania was recently recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). In addition, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Unison Health Plan 16th among hundreds of Medicaid health plans in its October 3 issue, available at news stands today. The ranking was based on clinical performance, member satisfaction and NCQA Accreditation.

Unison has been selected to expand access to health care to the 56,000 Medicaid covered families and children in Mahoning and Trumbull counties. Unison begins serving members and providers November 1. As a quality leader in the public sector managed care industry, Unison Health Plan will work together with members, providers and community leaders to offer the highest quality health care services available in Ohio today.

Scott A. Bowers, Executive Director of Unison Health Plan of Ohio, looks forward to showing members why Unison Health Plan stands out among other health plans.

-more-

“We will meet or exceed the expectations of our members and providers by delivering far beyond what is typically met through traditional managed care. Our provider network, which consists of a wide range of primary care physicians and specialists, is further supported by Unison’s own medical management team of specialists. We even have a Special Needs Unit that coordinates medical care with community-based services. The result is a health plan that puts families and providers at the center of an effectively integrated delivery system. We truly respond to the needs of our members.”

Unison’s approach to health care emphasizes helping individuals maintain independence by focusing on prevention, early detection and management of chronic conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, high-risk pregnancy, breast cancer, cervical cancer, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and other debilitating diseases and conditions. Unison's members receive regular HEALTHCHEK screenings that promote early detection of potential health problems and help reduce the cost of care related to late-stage diagnosis.

Matthew C. Liburdi, Vice President of Managed Care at Sharon Regional Health System, has worked with Unison Health Plan for more than seven years. "Sharon Regional Health System has enjoyed a strong business relationship with Unison in Pennsylvania, and I am confident that their expertise in the industry and their commitment to customer service will be a valuable asset to the Ohio Medicaid program."

About Unison Health Plan

Since 1995, Unison Health Plan’s dynamic health care plans have specialized in government sponsored health programs such as Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, State General Assistance, and Medicare. Unison is partnered with more than 265,000 members and 15,000 providers throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Unison provides high quality, cost effective health care and responsive customer service that empowers our members and providers to work together for better health. For additional information visit www.unisonhealthplan.com.