



AFFILIATES OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 13, 2011

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**ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL AND HSHS MEDICAL GROUP EXPAND PARTICIPATION
WITH HEALTH ALLIANCE NETWORK**

*State employees with Health Alliance HMO or POS now have access to
St. John's and HSHS Medical Group services*

(SPRINGFIELD, IL) –St. John's Hospital and HSHS Medical Group, including Priority Care, have expanded network participation with Health Alliance Medical Plans effective immediately. The new arrangement means local residents who enroll in Health Alliance HMO or POS insurance plans, including the State of Illinois employee health plan, will have access to the full services of St. John's Hospital and HSHS Medical Group. Both the Hospital and Medical Group already participate in the Health Alliance PPO and self-funded networks.

“Springfield is a key part of the Health Alliance service area,” Health Alliance CEO Jeff Ingrum said. “Adding these important health care providers to our already robust HMO network means people who want the comprehensive coverage of an HMO or POS plan can also have a comprehensive list of providers to choose from.”

St. John's Hospital is home of the nationally-recognized St. John's Prairie Heart Institute, St. John's Children's Hospital, St. John's Women's Service, and St. John's AthletiCare. St. John's is a regional tertiary care center licensed for over 400 beds and serving a 30 county area in Central and Southern Illinois. More than 600 physicians representing approximately 30 specialties and sub-specialties are on the hospital's medical staff.

“We are pleased to announce this expanded relationship with Health Alliance,” added Robert Ritz, President & CEO of St. John's Hospital. “St. John's has a long history of providing inspired care to the communities we serve and our new agreement with Health Alliance allows many additional area residents to now have access to our world-class services. I commend Health Alliance for expanding their presence with St. John's.”

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HSHS Medical Group, with 41 providers and 14 locations in the Springfield area, is a network of primary care and specialty care physicians, nurses and medical professionals closely aligned with Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) hospitals in communities throughout Central and Southern Illinois and Western Wisconsin, including St. John's Hospital.

“This is great news for the residents of our area who have wanted access to the quality physicians and mid-levels of HSHS Medical Group and Priority Care but were not previously able to select our practices due to insurance restrictions,” said Frank Mikell, MD, Chief Physician Executive of Hospital Sisters Health System. “We stand ready to provide care to patients whether they need a primary care physician or have immediate, walk-in needs.”

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About Hospital Sisters Health System: Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) is a multi-institutional health care system that sponsors 13 hospitals in 12 communities across Illinois and Wisconsin and an integrated physician network. As our name implies, we are a healing ministry guided by the historic mission of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. At the same time, we are firmly grounded in modern best practices. Learn more by visiting www.hshs.org.

Health Alliance Medical Plans is a leading provider-sponsored health plan in the Midwest, administering health plans for more than 260,000 insured members in Illinois and Iowa as well as nearly 60,000 beneficiaries in 34 states. In recognition of its exceptional commitment to quality, Health Alliance has maintained the highest accreditation possible from NCQA for its HMO, POS and Medicare HMO plans since 1997 and is the top-ranked health plan for 2011-2012 in Illinois and Iowa for its Private (commercial) plans.