
**Mercy MedicareADVANTAGE is ranked #2 in Missouri
and #93 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.**

For Immediate Release

November 18, 2009 – Mercy Health Plans offers a top-ranked Medicare health plan in Missouri and among the top 100 in the nation according to the U.S. News & World Report, [*America's Best Health Plans 2009-10 list*](#).

“It is a great honor to be recognized as one of the top Medicare plans in the nation and in Missouri. This is a positive reflection on the quality of care that our members have grown to expect from us,” says Stephen Spurgeon, M.D. Chief Medical Officer for Mercy Health Plans.

America’s Best Health Plan’s 2009-10 list, ranks Mercy MedicareADVANTAGE, a Medicare Advantage plan offered by Mercy Health Plans, #93 out of more than 700 in the nation and #2 in Missouri. Medicare plans are evaluated on 44 measures in three broad areas including member satisfaction, prevention, and treating of illness.

U.S. News & World Report and the National Committee for Quality Assurance develop the America’s Best Health Plans list. Member satisfaction makes up 25 percent, prevention and treatment together equals 60 percent and NCQA accreditation is 15 percent. Rank is determined by each health plan’s score.

“Our ranking reflects the hard work of our employees and primary care providers to ensure that our members are getting the right care at the right time,” says Dr. Spurgeon. “Mercy Health Plans’ focus is on improving the health of our members and providing excellent customer service. Being recognized as a top plan in the nation is just icing on the cake.”

This is the second honor bestowed upon Mercy’s Medicare plan this year. Mercy Health Plans was the only Medicare Advantage plan in Missouri to receive a Five Star Excellent Rating for 2010 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Mercy Health Plans offers a variety of Medicare Advantage plans for Medicare-eligible individuals, seniors and disabled persons. Medicare Advantage plans cover all Medicare-approved services including major healthcare expenses, preventive and routine services, and most plans include prescription drug benefits. With plan options beginning at a zero premium, Mercy MedicareADVANTAGE members may choose a plan that fits both their needs as well as their budgets.

Mercy Health Plans, a subsidiary of the Sisters of Mercy Health System, offers customized health benefit solutions, administrative services and insurance coverage to employer groups, individuals and families. Headquartered in Chesterfield, MO, Mercy Health Plans also provides a full spectrum of healthcare management services including health and wellness programs and services as well as disease management to regions in Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Sisters of Mercy Health System (Mercy) operates 19 hospitals, physician practices, outpatient clinics, health plans and related health and human services in a seven-state area including Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

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