



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMIDA CARE HEALTH PLAN POSTS HIGH QUALITY SCORES IN DELIVERING COMPREHENSIVE HIV CARE

NEW YORK, NY – December 31, 2011 – Amida Care, a not-for-profit Medicaid HIV Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), performed better than the statewide average for Medicaid managed care plans in quality scores for people with HIV. The study, based on 2010 data, was part of the Department of Health’s Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements, information that enables consumers to evaluate the quality of health care services provided by New York State’s managed care plans.

Amida Care has made an unflinching commitment to encourage member involvement in disease self-management and prevention. This is evidenced by the Plan’s high performance scores, for example, in HIV viral load monitoring, engagement in care, and syphilis screening. The results of Amida Care’s strong prevention education program are evident in its syphilis screening score which is significantly above the statewide average. The performance results also show that 91% of Amida Care’s members engage in ongoing primary care which is a remarkable achievement in a population with chronic and often multi-co-morbid conditions as well as significant social and economic disadvantages.

Dr. Jerome Ernst, Amida Care’s Chief Medical Officer, attributes this success in quality outcomes to the care management model that the Plan employs. He said, “We offer access to medical care by HIV Specialists, supported by Amida Care staff including the Retention in Care Unit (RICU) that employs CHOWs (Community Health Outreach Workers) and Health Navigators. We also use Mobile Engagement Teams (METs) to engage and involve members in developing the tools that will enable them to manage their health and wellness in a positive way – this is critical in chronic disease management”.

Amida Care philosophy maintains that a hands-on and holistic approach is a key ingredient of successful chronic disease management. And studies have shown that the special needs model can also save health care dollars. The Lewin Group published a report in 2009 showing that medical costs for treating patients enrolled in a SNP were lower than for people previously enrolled in the fee-for-service Medicaid program. Inpatient costs were lowered “dramatically”, and, at the same time, the findings suggested “improved access and adherence to appropriate medication regimens under the HIV SNP model.”



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Doug Wirth, President and CEO stated, "Amida Care has shown that a smaller health plan can successfully serve members with complex and chronic health conditions and develop solutions that result in high quality and cost effective care. Through our participation in the State's Health Home initiative and other programs that serve New Yorkers with severe health care needs and challenges, Amida Care will continue to work collaboratively with its providers to create innovative approaches to care management."

For information about the NYS Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements, go to:
www.health.ny.gov/health_care/managed_care/reports/eqarr/2011/about.htm

For a copy of the Lewin Group report "Evaluation of New York's HIV Special Needs Plan Program: Cost and Usage Impacts", go to:
www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/resources/snps/docs/hiv_snp_research_paper.pdf

ABOUT AMIDA CARE

Amida Care is a not-for-profit Medicaid HIV Special Needs Health Plan (SNP). Our mission is to provide access to comprehensive care and coordinated services that facilitate positive health outcomes and general well being for our members. Amida Care has nurse care coordinators, member service representatives, community case managers, and other plan staff available to assist our members, making it easier for them to get, and stay in, regular care. Comprehensive assistance for members and providers is available, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.