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Amida Care Expands Behavioral Health Benefits for Members

***Comprehensive Mental Health and Substance Use Coverage Bolstered by
New York State's Medicaid Redesign***

New York, NY (October 8, 2015) – Amida Care, New York's largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), is expanding its behavioral health services available to members. As of October 1, 2015, members of Amida Care's Medicaid Live Life Plus plan are covered for mental health and substance use services that were previously reimbursed by fee-for-service Medicaid.*

“Amida Care has long understood how holistic care leads to life-saving health outcomes and significant cost savings,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. “Behavioral health is a critical component of comprehensive treatment, and we anticipate that our expanded mental health and substance abuse coverage and services will have a tangible impact on the lives of our members.”

Amida Care will continue to coordinate all the physical and behavioral health care that its Medicaid members receive, enabling the organization to help providers achieve better outcomes for their patients. Amida Care's Health and Recovery Plan (HARP)-eligible members will receive all the coverage and services they would receive through a standard HARP. Members receiving these benefits won't experience any changes to their care, except that they will use their Amida Care membership card for their services instead of their Medicaid card.

In addition to the expanded benefits, as of January 1, 2016, some Amida Care members may be eligible for additional behavioral health benefits, including educational support services, peer supports, and residential support services, called Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). This cohort of membership is designated HARP-eligible by New York State.

These expanded offerings are part of Governor Cuomo's efforts to redesign Medicaid in New York State for optimal health outcomes and cost effectiveness. This is an important step forward in enhancing access to high-quality behavioral health services for all New York State residents.

For more information on Amida Care's expanded behavioral health benefits, please call Amida Care Member Services at 1-800-556-0689.

**Covered services include clinical evaluations to determine eligibility.*

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About Amida Care

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with chronic conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders. Through our wide network of top health care providers in the five boroughs of New York City, we deliver a special-needs health plan (SNP) to Medicaid recipients who are living with HIV/AIDS or who are homeless (regardless of HIV status), as well as Medicare recipients with HIV/AIDS and/or chronic conditions. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.