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UW Health, UnityPoint Health, UnityPoint Health – Meriter,
Physicians Plus, Unity and Gundersen Health Plan Formalize Collaborative Plans

Federal Regulatory Review Complete

MADISON and SAUK CITY, Wis. – (April 10, 2017) – UW Health, UnityPoint Health, UnityPoint Health - Meriter (Meriter), Physicians Plus Insurance Corp., Unity Health Plans Insurance Corp. (Unity) and Gundersen Health Plan have reached two important milestones in their plans to collaborate more closely in the future.

All organizations have now signed formal agreements and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has completed its regulatory review, clearing the way for finalizing the agreements.

The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) must approve the insurance transaction before it is finalized. So, although the organizations have reached important milestones in the process, nothing changes operationally today for patients, members or employees as a result.

Eventually, the combination of Physicians Plus, Unity and Gundersen Health Plan will give members a greater choice of providers, products and plans.

The joint operating agreement (JOA) between Meriter and UW Health formalizes and expands their already significant collaboration in caring for patients. UW Health and Meriter have worked together for decades to provide the best in patient care in southern Wisconsin. They are partners in the Madison Surgery Center, Wisconsin Sleep, Transformations Surgery Center, Wisconsin Dialysis, Inc., Generations Fertility Care and the UW Health Rehabilitation Hospital. More recently, they implemented a joint operating agreement to create a shared destination mother-baby care program.

These milestones follow the signing of non-binding letters of intent in June 2016. Since that time, the organizations have made significant progress on their due-diligence reviews, met with regulators and set broad outlines for governance and operating structures.

Final closing of the agreements is expected in summer 2017, pending OCI's approval.
About UnityPoint Health - Meriter
UnityPoint Health-Meriter provides comprehensive, coordinated care to patients in the greater Madison area through our clinics, hospital and home care services. Meriter offers primary and specialty care and is home to the busiest birthing center in Wisconsin. Meriter earned an overall 5-star quality rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and has multiple accolades for providing an outstanding patient experience. For more information, visit unitypoint.org.

About UnityPoint Health
UnityPoint Health is one of the nation’s most integrated health systems. Our physician-led team of professionals communicates clearly and effectively to address a patient’s health care in the most appropriate setting: whether that is a clinic, a hospital or at home. Through relationships with more than 280 physician clinics, 33 hospitals in metropolitan and rural communities and home care services, UnityPoint Health provides care throughout Iowa, Western Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

UnityPoint Health entities employ more than 30,000 employees, working toward innovative advancements to deliver the Best Outcome, Every Patient, Every Time. Each year, through more than 5.6 million patient visits, UnityPoint Health, UnityPoint Clinic and UnityPoint at Home provides a full range of coordinated care to patients and families. With total annual operating revenue of $3.9 billion, UnityPoint Health is the nation’s 13th largest nonprofit health system and the fourth largest nondenominational health system in America.

UnityPoint Health provides community benefit programs and services to improve the health of people in its communities.

About Physicians Plus Insurance Corporation
Physicians Plus Insurance is a nationally recognized managed-care organization focused on providing high-quality, innovative products and services to improve the health of its members and the community. Founded in 1986, Physicians Plus provides health insurance to about 65,000 members in south central Wisconsin. A progressive health insurer with an organizational commitment to preventive health and wellness, Physicians Plus has been recognized as a best place to work and one of America’s Healthiest Companies and earned multiple Well Workplace Gold Awards from the Wellness Council of America.
About UW Health
UW Health is the integrated health system of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with 1,400 physicians and 16,500 staff at six hospitals and 80 outpatient sites. It is governed by the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority and partners with University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health to fulfill patient care, research, education and community-service missions. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority operates a Magnet-designated hospital named Wisconsin’s top hospital continuously since 2012 by US News & World Report.

About Unity Health Plans Insurance Corporation
Formed in 1994, Unity Health Plans Insurance Corporation, an affiliate of UW Health and Gundersen Health System, provides community-based managed care products and services to about 186,000 members throughout 26 counties in southwestern Wisconsin. Unity Health Insurance focuses on community-based health care and direct access to UW Health, Gundersen Health System and other local health care providers. More online: unityhealth.com.

About Gundersen Health Plan
Founded in 1995, and with approximately 80,000 members in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, Gundersen Health Plan is an affiliate of Gundersen Health System and UW Health. With an extensive provider network, Gundersen Health Plan offers a variety of plans, including its five-star-rated Senior Preferred HMO, to meet the needs of the communities it serves. More online: gundersenhealthplan.org.

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