



The Coalition for Affordable Quality Healthcare

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NATION'S LARGEST HEALTH PLANS LAUNCH NEW WEB SITE

A coalition of the nation's largest health plans representing more than 100 million Americans launched an enhanced Web site - www.CAQH.org - today. The site is just one of the coalition's several ongoing efforts to provide the American people with greater access to important health care information.

The Coalition for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH), a group of 26 health plans working together to help improve the health care experience, unveiled the newly enhanced Web site, which is designed to provide consumers, employers and health care professionals with updates on the various activities and initiatives which the coalition is undertaking in a "one-stop shop" fashion.

This Web site is one in a series of "promises made, promises kept" by CAQH as a follow-up to the coalition's pledges announced at a press conference earlier this year. This new site expands on CAQH's original site design and helps to further the coalition's efforts to provide consumers and the public with access to helpful information. Through the new "Knowledge Sharing Database" consumers can gain insight into the many health improvement projects underway at their health plan, including programs involving diseases and conditions, such as asthma, diabetes and osteoporosis. CAQH member plans are participating in a cooperative effort by sharing health initiatives that will help patients prevent and manage illness and improve the value and quality of the health care they receive.

The site also includes more details about CAQH's membership and ongoing collaborative efforts. The coalition's future plans include the creation of an online database of member plan drug coverage information for prescribers, the launch of a common provider credentialing application and database, and online glossaries of common health plan terms to facilitate consumer interaction with their health plan.

"One of the goals of the site is to improve the way we communicate with the health care community and their patients," said Leonard D. Schaeffer, chairman and chief executive officer of WellPoint and CAQH chairman. "This coalition has been doing great work during the past two years by raising awareness about antibiotic resistance and working towards a common credentialing application for physicians. We want to share our progress and our continued success with the public. In addition, we hope consumers and health care professionals use the site to learn more about the current CAQH initiatives designed to improve the health care experience for patients and their doctors."

CAQH is a coalition of the nation's largest health plans and insurers. Companies participating in CAQH are: Aetna; American Association of Health Plans; Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield; AultCare; Beech Street Corporation; Blue Cross Blue Shield Association; BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina; CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield; CIGNA; ConnectiCare, Inc.; Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield; FirstHealth; Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company; Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound; Health Insurance Association of America; Health Net, Inc.; HealthPartners; Highmark



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Blue Cross and Blue Shield; Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey; Independence Blue Cross; MultiPlan, Inc.; Mutual of Omaha; Oxford Health Plans; PacifiCare Health Systems Inc.; Private Healthcare Systems, Inc.; RightCHOICE Managed Care, Inc.; The Regence Group; Trigon Healthcare, Inc.; and WellPoint.