

NEWS RELEASE

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HealthSpan to Serve 13,000 Mercy Health Employees and Their Families

Cleveland, OH (September 16, 2014) – Beginning January 2015, Ohio's largest healthcare system, Mercy Health, will transition approximately 13,000 employees and their dependents to HealthSpan's self-funded health benefits management. Employees from Toledo and Lorain will be offered customized benefits created in partnership by Mercy Health and HealthSpan. The plan is designed around keeping small health problems from becoming bigger, more serious challenges.

"Like many organizations, more than half of our healthcare spending goes toward treating 5 percent of our employees," said Edwin Oley, president and CEO, Mercy – Lorain. HealthSpan offers earlier intervention and better preventative care than traditional plans. The focus on overall health and well-being leads to a healthier team and decreased costs for our employees."

As partner organizations, Mercy Health and HealthSpan are uniquely able to assist employees with improving their health. The relationship between the two organizations is part of Mercy Health's work to expand access to higher quality care at a more affordable cost. HealthSpan was chosen to assist with that transformation by changing the way consumers and organizations pay for care.

Prevention and early intervention are built into HealthSpan's payment model. A care coordination program is an essential part of the plan to help members be well. Trained nurses called care coordinators outreach to patients who need a higher level of support and work directly with the patients' physicians to help achieve better health. Patients in the care coordination program have experienced 27 percent fewer emergency room visits, 24 percent fewer admissions, shorter hospitalization stays, and lower rates of readmission.

The care coordination program continues to expand throughout Ohio to support Mercy Health employees and other plan members.

In addition, HealthSpan offers a customized "Be Well Within" wellness program that enables users to share information about their blood pressure, weight, diets, exercise, and other factors with their physicians using electronic health records. The platform not only provides education and motivation to help members be well, but it enables physicians to access more information to help provide specialized, quality care.

"We know that the most important asset an organization has is its employees, and we strive to keep them healthy and to improve their overall quality of life," said HealthSpan's Vice President Patricia Horvath. "HealthSpan is redefining the way health care and coverage is delivered by working to remove barriers to quality, affordable care. We are pleased to be working with Mercy Health's 13,000 employees and family members in Toledo and Lorain, and look forward to helping them reach their healthcare goals."

About HealthSpan

HealthSpan, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, has been caring for Ohioans for nearly 50 years. HealthSpan is committed to making healthcare easier and more affordable to help members and patients be well. It provides health care coverage through its self-insured, individual, commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid plans throughout Ohio. HealthSpan also delivers integrated care through its multispecialty medical group located in Northeast Ohio, and partners with Mercy Health (formerly Catholic Health Partners) and its care delivery system. In 2013, HealthSpan acquired Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Ohio. For more information, visit HealthSpan.org or follow on twitter.com/myhealthspan and facebook.com/myhealthspan.

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