



## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### **GROUP HEALTH PLAN INTRODUCES NEW PLAN FOR MEDICARE ELIGIBLES WITH DIABETES**

ST. LOUIS, MO — Medicare-eligible individuals with diabetes in Missouri and Illinois now have access to a health plan designed specifically for diabetics. Group Health Plan, Inc. (GHP) is now offering members Advantra Extra, a new Medicare Advantage program featuring specific benefits to help them manage the disease.

“Advantra Extra finally makes managing diabetes both simple and affordable for those on Medicare,” said Thor Anderson, GHP’s vice president, Medicare. “Because diabetes services and supplies are so expensive, up until now it has been normal for those with the disease to be concerned about whether they’ll have access to the services and supplies they need. This is especially worrisome for seniors who are on a fixed income. With Advantra Extra, these worries are effectively taken away.”

According to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, about 20 million people (7 percent of the population) are currently living with diabetes, a group of diseases marked by high levels of blood glucose resulting from defects in insulin production, insulin action, or both.

With Advantra Extra, GHP members receive comprehensive Medicare Advantage coverage through one of two plan options, including one plan that offers a \$0 monthly plan premium. No matter which plan they choose, Medicare eligibles will receive several special benefits designed to make caring for diabetes affordable and worry-free, including:

- No copayments for drugs often needed for diabetics
- Blood sugar testing supplies
- Diabetic shoes
- \$10 co-payments for podiatrist and endocrinologist physician visits
- Access to a diabetes management program staffed by registered nurses
- \$0 copayment for generic drugs through the Medicare “Coverage gap”
- Broad provider network with more than 4,000 primary care physicians and specialists

– more –

## *Add One – Group Health Plan Introduces New Plan for Medicare Eligibles with Diabetes*

“Advantra Extra is just another way we can serve the needs of Medicare-eligibles throughout the St. Louis area,” said Anderson. “We are proud to introduce this unique and ground-breaking product to the community.”

To learn more about Advantra Extra from GHP, Medicare-eligibles may call 1-866-557-8753 (TDD 1-877-231-0573), Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or schedule an appointment with one of GHP’s state-licensed sales representatives who will assist with the enrollment process. Advantra Extra is available to all Medicare-eligible individuals who have diabetes and who are living in the counties of St. Louis, St. Louis City, Jefferson and St. Charles in Missouri and St. Clair and Madison Counties in Illinois.

Founded in 1978, Group Health Plan, Inc. (GHP) offers various health insurance products to employers and individuals in Central and Eastern Missouri and Southern and Central Illinois. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of Coventry Health Care, Inc, GHP benefits from both a local management team and the financial backing of one of the top managed care firms in the nation. Currently, GHP contracts with more than 8,400 physicians to provide health care for its members. Employers, union groups and individuals may choose from a broad range of GHP’s managed care products including:

- HMO, PPO and Point-of-Service plans
- Medicare Advantage plans for Medicare eligible retirees
- Third-party payer services through GHP and Care Management Resources (CMR), GHP’s administrative services divisions.

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