



NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **COLLABORATIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS AND LEADING INDEPENDENT PROVIDERS PARTNER TO DELIVER INNOVATIVE PRIMARY CARE IN THE SOUTHEAST**

*Participants to Coordinate Care, Improve Health Outcomes  
for Medicare Fee-For-Service Beneficiaries*

**HOUSTON and TAMPA, Fla. (Aug. 21, 2019)** – Collaborative Health Systems, a WellCare Health Plans, Inc. (NYSE: WCG) company, announced today the formation of the Accountable Care Coalition of Southeast Partners, LLC. This new regional Medicare Accountable Care Organization (ACO) is participating in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) starting on July 1, 2019.

The Accountable Care Coalition of Southeast Partners is a collaboration of 47 independent physician practices who have come together to join CMS' new Pathways to Success. CHS will support ACO providers in advancing the transition to value, with the goal to successfully prepare the ACO for a full risk relationship with CMS. Each of these providers and their practices has committed to delivering value by advancing five goals: Accountability, Competition, Engagement, Integrity, and Quality.

Medicare ACOs are groups of doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers who come together voluntarily to provide coordinated, high-quality care to their Medicare beneficiaries, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of services and preventing medical errors. As Shared Savings Program participants, these ACOs and their practices take responsibility for the total cost and quality of care for their patients. In exchange, they can receive a portion of the savings they achieve. To date, 518 Shared Savings Program ACOs serve more than 10.9 million beneficiaries across 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories.

“Our independent primary care and specialist practices are pleased to partner with Collaborative Health Systems in transforming care in Texas and the Southeast region,” said Ahmed Ahmed, M.D., FSCAI and medical director. “Medicare beneficiaries in our participant practices can expect many improvements in their healthcare experience and health outcomes through proactive coordination of care with specialists and other healthcare providers in their community, to receive the right care at the right time. We chose Collaborative Health Systems for their proven expertise, provider support and leadership in successfully managing Medicare Accountable Care Organizations in Texas and throughout the country since 2012.”

“Primary care practices can thrive and retain their independence while embracing care transformation that rewards value-based care, increases accountability and improves health outcomes,” said Anthony Valdés, president of Collaborative Health Systems. “With the formation of the Accountable Care Coalition of Southeast Partners, Collaborative Health Systems looks forward to assisting our regional provider partners in making care primary again by deepening beneficiary relationships, advancing care in the community, engaging their beneficiaries and lowering costs.”

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**About the Accountable Care Coalition of Southeast Partners, LLC.**

The Accountable Care Coalition of Southeast Partners, LLC, is a Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO focused on value-based healthcare. Our providers are dedicated to improving the quality of health care and lowering the growth rate of health care costs. The Accountable Care Coalition of Southeast Partners, organized for providers in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and Arkansas, participates in the Medicare Shared Savings Program under a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. For more information, visit [www.accsepartners.com](http://www.accsepartners.com).

**About Collaborative Health Systems**

Collaborative Health Systems (CHS), a WellCare Company, is a management services organization that partners with independent primary care physicians as they move to value-based payment systems. Its core belief is that primary care physicians are in the best position to influence the quality and cost of healthcare. CHS provides comprehensive support for its physician partners by providing management services, risk contracting, and population health capabilities, including actionable data and other tools, to deliver care coordination and closure of gaps in care. CHS provides additional services to secure and deliver favorable value-based contracts with commercial and other health plans.

As of July 2019, CHS manages two Next Generation ACOs, nine MSSP ACOs, a Collaborative Care Transformation Organization, and 2 Independent Practice Associations. For more information, visit [www.CollaborativeHealthSystems.com](http://www.CollaborativeHealthSystems.com).

**About WellCare Health Plans, Inc.**

Headquartered in Tampa, Fla., WellCare Health Plans, Inc. (NYSE: WCG) focuses primarily on providing government-sponsored managed care services to families, children, seniors and individuals with complex medical needs primarily through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, as well as individuals in the Health Insurance Marketplace. WellCare serves approximately 6.3 million members nationwide as of June 30, 2019. For more information about WellCare, please visit the company's website at [www.wellcare.com](http://www.wellcare.com).

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