

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Companies, Individuals Honored for Outstanding Contributions to Chronic Care

LAS VEGAS—In presentations here today, the Disease Management Association of America (DMAA) honored government and corporate health improvement and chronic disease programs with the association's coveted annual awards for excellence.

During an afternoon presentation at its 9th Annual Disease Management Leadership, DMAA presented 2007 Disease Management Leadership Awards to:

- **Marriott International Inc., for Outstanding Employer Program.** Marriott was recognized for its leadership in designing and implementing programs to enhance the outcomes and efficiency of its disease and care management efforts.

“Marriott has demonstrated a strategic approach to designing benefit plans that emphasizes health care quality and improvement,” said Jill Berger, vice president, health & welfare, for Marriott International. “Working in tandem with ActiveHealth Management the past eight years, we’ve been able to develop and implement effective health management services powered by evidence-based clinical decision support technology. These individualized solutions, which include disease management, value-based formulary and a personal health record, have impacted thousands of Marriott associates and their families.”

- **New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, for Outstanding Government Program.** Through this Medicaid initiative to bring disease management for asthma, diabetes and other conditions to a geographically dispersed population, New Hampshire has reduced emergency department visits, increased recipient satisfaction and generated a return on investment.

“New Hampshire’s successful strategy is to focus on the individual, not the disease,” said Doris H. Lotz, MD, MPH, medical director for New Hampshire’s Medicaid program. “We look at our recipients’ understanding of their disease, their readiness for self improvement and, very important for a Medicaid population, the psychosocial barriers to health improvement that they encounter.”

- **APS Healthcare Inc., Outstanding Government Program, for Georgia Enhanced Care.** This unique program, offered with the Morehouse School of Medicine, supports the needs of the aged, blind and disabled in Medicaid through a localized initiative that improves member identification and takes a holistic approach to comorbid conditions.

“We are delighted to receive DMAA’s ‘Outstanding Government Program’ award,” said David Hunsaker, president, APS Public Programs. “We believe that by helping program participants

adopt healthier behaviors and providing support to help them overcome personal challenges, they will ultimately improve overall health outcomes.”

“Georgia Enhanced Care can make a difference in the lives of the populations served,” said Rhonda Medows, MD, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health. “APS has been a key contributor to the program’s success by implementing innovative strategies and approaches targeted at improving the lives of Georgia’s most vulnerable Medicaid members.”

DMAA President and CEO Tracey Moorhead applauded all the Leadership Award winners.

“I can’t say enough about the forward-thinking, innovative programs we honor today,” Moorhead said. “Population-based care in both the corporate environment and public programs is critical to improving health and lowering health care spending, and our winners today represent successful approaches toward those goals.”

DMAA earlier this year solicited award nominations in a rigorous process that evaluated nominations against seven core criteria focusing on commitment, program design, implementation, innovation, outcomes-based orientation, scope and potential impact, and vision/leadership. Each award winner also met category-specific criteria.

Since its creation in 1999, DMAA’s Leadership Awards Program has honored organizations and individuals in population-based care annually. Although the awards have evolved over the years, their core purpose remains the same: to recognize outstanding achievements in and contributions to the science and practice of chronic disease care.

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