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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Hill Physicians Begins Serving San Joaquin Medi-Cal Recipients**

Physicians from San Joaquin General Hospital and Community Will Participate

STOCKTON, CA (March 11, 2010) – Hill Physicians Medical Group will begin providing care to San Joaquin's Medi-Cal recipients on April 1, 2010. The arrangement also brings the doctors of San Joaquin General Hospital into the Hill Physicians provider network for Medi-Cal enrollees.

"We're very pleased," says Paula Friend, regional director for Hill Physicians in San Joaquin. "Medi-Cal is an important safety net for people and now we and our colleagues at San Joaquin General Hospital can work together to help provide care to people who rely on Medi-Cal in our community."

Combined, there will be 195 primary care doctors and specialists from Hill Physicians' San Joaquin provider network and San Joaquin General Hospital available to Medi-Cal enrollees through Anthem Blue Cross. Medi-Cal recipients have the option of selecting coverage and providers through Anthem Blue Cross or Health Plan of San Joaquin, the two Medi-Cal managed plans contracted with the State's Department of Health Care Services.

Anthem Blue Cross is transitioning from a direct contracting arrangement in favor of a medical group or independent physician association model, which is expected to place more emphasis on primary care and prevention. Hill Physicians is one of the groups selected by Anthem to provide those services and more than 132 doctors from Hill's local network chose to participate. Another 63 doctors from San Joaquin General Hospital are joining Hill Physicians Medical Group in order to serve Anthem Blue Cross local Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

"I'm glad that a medical group as well-respected as Hill Physicians is caring for Medi-Cal members in our community," says Dr. Robert Abatecola, a family medicine practitioner with San Joaquin General Hospital. "Some Medi-Cal enrollees have complex medical situations and Hill brings resources in patient education, preventive care and case management that go far beyond what an individual physician can offer."

Hill Physicians Medical Group is nationally recognized for its expertise in managed healthcare, and was awarded "Elite" status by the California Association of Physician Groups in 2009 – its highest designation. Hill Physicians began serving Medi-Cal members in Sacramento in late 2008 and plans to begin doing so in San Francisco later this year.

"We're committed to serving Medi-Cal members," says David Culberson, director of San Joaquin General Hospital. "Our clinics and community medical centers now can serve more people through this affiliation with Hill Physicians." San Joaquin General Hospital operates 30 outpatient clinics, many of which recently have been updated, and has developed a Hospital Master Plan that will revamp the hospital campus.



Many Medi-Cal beneficiaries will receive letters letting them know that they will become Hill Physicians members through Anthem Blue Cross. The change does not impact Medi-Cal enrollees who receive services through Health Plan of San Joaquin.

Current Medi-Cal enrollees who want more information or to switch to a managed care option with Anthem Blue Cross and Hill Physicians can do so by calling (800) 430-4263. To help prospective or current Medi-Cal beneficiaries make informed choices about their care, the California Department of Health Care Services regularly holds informational sessions in Lodi, Manteca and Stockton in a variety of languages.

To apply for Medi-Cal for the first time, visit the Human Services Agency office at 333 E. Washington Street in Stockton or call (209) 468-1000 to request an application by mail. Applicants will need to provide identity, income and expense information to determine eligibility. The Human Services Agency office can help prospective enrollees complete the application and answer questions.

California residents generally qualify for Medi-Cal if they are enrolled in one of the following programs: Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment program (SSI/SSP), CalWorks (Aid to Families with Dependent Children), Refugee Assistance, Foster Care or Adoption Assistance Program or In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). Other applicants are enrolled if they meet income and resource guidelines and are either 65 or older, blind, disabled, under 21, pregnant, in a skilled nursing or intermediate care home, on refugee status (with limitations), or have been through one of the state's Cancer Detection Programs (Every Woman Counts, Family PACT) and found to be in need of treatment for breast or cervical cancer, or are a parent or caretaker relative with minor children.

### **About Hill Physicians**

Hill Physicians Medical Group is one of the nation's largest independent physician associations (IPAs) and a recognized leader in innovative health care. The Standards of Excellence Program of the California Association of Physician Groups recognizes Hill Physicians as a state-wide leader in patient-centered care, care management practices, health information technology, accountability and transparency. Committed to serving healthy lifestyles, Hill Physicians Medical Group offers extensive health education services to its patients, including wellness classes, health screenings, and self-help through its online information portal at [www.HillPhysicians.com](http://www.HillPhysicians.com).

### **About San Joaquin General Hospital**

San Joaquin General Hospital is a division of San Joaquin County Health Care Services Department. The Hospital and Agency embraces a philosophy of excellence in providing health services, education and professional training in an integrated system that values quality in life, family interaction, and respect for both clients and employees. The Agency is committed to the delivery of community-oriented, culturally sensitive, and affordable health care throughout San Joaquin County.

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