

**For Immediate Release**

**Central Health Plan Named Among Best 2008 Medicare Part D Benefit Values by HealthMetrix Research**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (December 3, 2007) – Central Health Plan is one of 23 Medicare Advantage plans nationally to be recognized for the design of its Part D drug benefits. Central Health Plan's *Medicare Advantage* plan available in Los Angeles County was recognized in the 2008 COSTSHARE REPORT findings released by HealthMetrix Research Inc., a national independent managed care research firm, and the [MedicareNewsWatch.com](http://www.MedicareNewsWatch.com) website. The findings were based on estimated 2008 cost-sharing for over 400 Medicare Advantage plans offering \$0 premium and \$0 deductible drug coverage benefits in over 90 markets.

According to HealthMetrix Research and [MedicareNewsWatch.com](http://www.MedicareNewsWatch.com) president Alan Mittermaier:

"Central Health Plan has demonstrated a commitment to delivering maximum value in the design of their Part D drug benefits. The \$0 premium along with \$0 annual deductible minimizes out-of-pocket drug costs for members regardless of their health status. What separates Central Health Plan from other plans is the extended coverage available throughout the 'gap' or 'donut hole' when seniors would otherwise have no drug coverage until reaching \$4,050 in annual out-of-pocket costs. By doing so, Central Health Plan also minimizes much of the confusion factor associated with other Part D drug plans."

The COSTSHARE REPORT estimates annual out-of-pocket costs for Medicare Advantage plan members based on health status (healthy/episodic/chronic) and corresponding utilization of the most common plan benefits (physician office visits, emergency or urgent care, hospital care, prevention care, prescriptions). Each Medicare plan's approved 2008 member copayments, deductibles and premiums appear in the Medicare Options Compare database ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)).

HealthMetrix Research Inc. provides independent information to a national audience of managed care organizations and consumers. HealthMetrix Research Inc. neither recommends nor endorses specific Medicare managed care plans.

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The independent COSTSHARE REPORT includes approved 2008 plan benefits for Medicare Advantage plans in Los Angeles County. Reprinted with permission and distributed by Central Health Plan. Medicare has neither reviewed, nor endorses this information.