

NEWS RELEASE

Company Contact

Doug Markham
Rockport Healthcare Group
615-221-2625
dmarkham@rhgnet.com

Media Contact

Joy Scott
Scott Public Relations
818-610-0270
joy@scottpublicrelations.com

Rockport Healthcare Continues Affiliation with First Choice of Mississippi

Agreement strengthens ties with the state's premier health plan to offer WC coverage

HOUSTON, Texas (January 21, 2009) — Rockport Healthcare, a national preferred provider organization (PPO) focused exclusively on workers' compensation, has announced a new agreement with First Choice of Mississippi, one of the state's largest and most respected health plans.

"Our motto has always been to think nationally and implement locally," said Doug Markham, Chief Operating Officer, Rockport Healthcare Group. "Because First Choice is locally owned and operated, they truly have the best relationships and communication within the provider community. Together, First Choice and Rockport are committed to reducing employer costs and helping ensure that injured employees get the best care possible, so they can return to a productive work environment as quickly as possible."

First Choice and Rockport have been network partners in providing high quality work comp networks for five years. The new arrangement marks a continuation of their affiliation and solidifies existing provider and employer relationships. It also provides an important benefit for the state's employers who may have lost their work comp provider coverage due to termination. Rockport is now the main work comp PPO in the state to contract with First Choice.

"Rockport was the only work comp network in the state to understand and respect our business model," said Rick Tretheway, President of First Choice. "They fit our long-term business model of partnerships that strengthen and enhance each other's offerings. "We look forward to further growing our relationship and to continuing to serve the employers and workers in our state."

The agreement marks the latest signed by Rockport and further strengthens and expands its national network. Within 18 months, Rockport has grown from a regional provider to one with networks in all 50 states, and offices in Texas, Tennessee, Florida and Missouri. As workers' compensation specialists, Rockport understands the importance of strong data integrity among providers, including accurate, up-to-date provider contact information. Better data speeds up the appointment scheduling process and as a result, injured workers obtain medical visits quicker and their return-to-work is expedited. Rockport offers access to key providers for third party administrators, managed care organizations, employers and carriers looking to control rising healthcare costs related to the treatment of workplace injuries.

About Rockport Healthcare Group:

Rockport Healthcare Group manages a national preferred provider organization network of over 400,000 providers that serves the workers' compensation medical management sector with offices in Texas, Tennessee, Florida and Missouri. The company's single focus of specializing in workers' compensation has resulted in a network of medical providers who understand early intervention, return-to-work guidelines and other industry-specific treatment protocols. For additional information, contact Doug Markham at 800-734-4460 or visit www.rockporthealthcare.com.

About First Choice:

Headquartered in Jackson, MS, the First Choice Health Plan of Mississippi Managed Care Network provides employers and insurers with a wide range of programs designed to help control healthcare costs. First Choice features a network of cost effective physicians and hospitals that are committed to quality medicine and efficient healthcare delivery. First Choice provides clients with over 100 hospitals and 4,500 physicians throughout the entire state of Mississippi, western Tennessee and southeast Louisiana. For more information, visit www.firstchoicems.com.

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