



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ANTHEM BLUE CROSS OF CALIFORNIA PAYS OUT OVER \$75 MILLION IN PHYSICIAN BONUS INCENTIVES**

**Woodland Hills, Calif.**— Anthem Blue Cross today announced physician bonus incentives as part of its 2007 HMO Quality Scorecard program, continuing its commitment to promoting quality, affordable health care to Californians. One hundred and seventy six participating physician groups throughout the state were paid incentives totaling over \$75 million, using Anthem's Quality Scorecard. Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group, located in San Diego, CA, is the top-performing physician group in the state for the third consecutive year.

“Anthem Blue Cross tremendously values the physicians and medical groups in our network and we look forward each year to recognizing those who go above and beyond in the care of our members,” said Dr. Michael Belman, Medical Director for Clinical Quality and Innovations for Anthem Blue Cross. “Since implementing this program in 2001, we’ve seen the performance level of physician groups increase significantly in both clinical quality and member satisfaction. We particularly commend those who are doing such an outstanding job of conducting preventive screening and those working tirelessly to improve the care of individuals with chronic diseases.”

“We are thrilled to have been named the top performing medical group in the state by Anthem Blue Cross since it demonstrates our commitment to providing the highest quality care and service to our patients,” said Donald C. Balfour, M.D., President and Medical Director for Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group.

“A big reason for our success is the dedication and creativity of our people,” said Dr. Balfour. “In one instance, a group of concerned doctors, nurses and diabetes educators recently started a preconception counseling program to help women better manage their diabetes before they become pregnant,” said Dr. Balfour. “While few providers throughout the nation offer such an innovative program, the team at Sharp Rees-Stealy knew that by providing education and screening, they could help women improve their health and prevent birth defects in the future.”

Anthem Blue Cross is the largest participant in the Integrated Healthcare Association's Pay-For-Performance Program in the country, paying out more physician bonus incentives than any other health plan. The HMO Quality Scorecard program rewards physician groups for improving the quality of care given to HMO patients using health outcomes and patient satisfaction information from a number of clinical and service categories. The quality measures include patient satisfaction surveys, clinical measures, waiting times for appointments, number of complaints and grievances, and review of medical group or IPA functions. Performance in managing chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes and adherence to screening guidelines for breast and cervical cancer were some of the clinical measures tracked.

**About Anthem Blue Cross:**

Anthem Blue Cross is the trade name of Blue Cross of California. Anthem Blue Cross and Anthem Blue Cross Life and Health Insurance Company are independent licensees of the Blue Cross Association.® ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross Association.

**About Sharp-Rees Stealy:**

Sharp Rees-Stealy is a multispecialty medical group with 18 locations throughout San Diego County. The group is certified by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), an industry benchmark for quality, and is nationally known for clinical practices. To learn more about Sharp Rees-Stealy, visit [www.sharp.com/srs](http://www.sharp.com/srs).

Sharp Rees-Stealy accepts most health insurance plans and is part of Sharp HealthCare. A 2007 Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award recipient, Sharp HealthCare is San Diego's most comprehensive health care delivery system. It is recognized for clinical excellence for services in cardiac, cancer, and multi-organ transplantation, as well as orthopaedics, rehabilitation, behavioral health and women's health. To learn more about Sharp, visit [www.sharp.com](http://www.sharp.com).

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