



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Urban Health Plan Awarded Reaccreditation From The Joint Commission

(Bronx, NY—May 24, 2007) Urban Health Plan has been awarded the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety.

"We sought accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to quality care and our patients' safety," said Paloma Hernandez, president and CEO. "We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as another step toward achieving excellence."

"Accreditation by The Joint Commission sets Urban Health Plan apart," said Michael Kulczycki, executive director, Ambulatory Care Accreditation Program, The Joint Commission. "Organizations awarded this Gold Seal of Approval dedicate themselves to continuous operational improvement."

"Urban Health Plan's emphasis on quality and safety has a direct impact on the care they provide their patients," said Nayda Padilla, Urban Health Plan board member and patient. "This emphasis is reflected in everything they do—from making sure the clinic is clean to the provision and coordination of primary and specialty services."

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of Urban Health Plan on October 11-13. The accreditation award recognizes Urban Health Plan's dedication to complying with the Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.

Urban Health Plan is a federally qualified community health center, serving the residents of the South Bronx. It operates three sites and five school based facilities. In 2006, Urban Health Plan cared for more than 26,000 patients through over 149,000 patient visits. Urban Health Plan received its initial accreditation in 2003.

Funded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits nearly 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations and more than 6,800 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

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