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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALOPTIMA LAUNCHES NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK

Network provides a new avenue for small medical practices and individual doctors to serve members, while expanding choice and access in a growing health care market

ORANGE, Calif. (February 27, 2015) — In an innovative approach to the changing health care landscape, the CalOptima Community Network will launch on March 1, 2015. The network strengthens Orange County's health care delivery system by protecting existing doctor-patient relationships and providing doctors with a new path to contract directly to serve CalOptima members.

"The increasing complexity of the health care environment calls for new approaches to delivering care," said CalOptima Board Chairman Mark Refowitz. "The launch of CalOptima Community Network increases the pool of doctors who can provide quality care for our growing membership."

Currently CalOptima contracts with 11 private health networks for Medi-Cal. Administered internally, the CalOptima Community Network will be the 12th network available for members to select, supplementing the existing delivery model and creating additional capacity for growth.

For the past two years, CalOptima worked with community stakeholders and health networks to identify the needs of the changing marketplace and to understand the reasons some doctors do not participate in managed care. Town hall meetings with doctors not affiliated with CalOptima revealed the need to reduce complexity in the health care system for small medical practices and individual doctors. In addition, allowing these doctors to contract directly with CalOptima may encourage more doctors to serve patients in managed care.

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"I am excited to be part of the CalOptima Community Network, and I look forward to the opportunity it presents for enhanced coordination of care," said Robert Ha, M.D., an Orange County internal medicine physician with offices in Fountain Valley and Garden Grove. "For me, enhanced coordination is a direct result of good communication. I can implement changes for my patients much faster, leading to improved health outcomes and a better overall patient experience."

The CalOptima Community Network is a natural next step in providing access to quality health care for members. By launching the network, CalOptima continues to be responsive to the community we serve, offering greater access to the services they need with the providers members know and trust.

 "Directly contracting with doctors ultimately provides members who transition into a CalOptima health plan a greater opportunity to continue seeing their existing doctor, giving them a choice between one who is affiliated with the CalOptima Community Network or another CalOptima-contracted health network in new and expanded programs," said Javier Sanchez, CalOptima Chief Network Officer.

"CalOptima Community Network will provide a member–centric model of care. Our model of care is responsive to individual member needs. We encourage our members and their families to participate in the discussions and decisions regarding medical treatments and services," said Sanchez.

For more information about participating in the new CalOptima Community Network, call the Provider Relations department at **714-246-8415**.

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<u>About CalOptima</u>
A county organized health system, CalOptima provides publicly funded health care coverage for low-income children, adults, seniors and people with disabilities in Orange County, Calif. CalOptima's mission is to provide members with access to quality health care services delivered in a cost-effective and compassionate manner. In total, CalOptima serves more than 700,000 members with a network of more than 7,000 primary care doctors and specialists, as well as 30 hospitals.