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PRESS RELEASE

Award-Winning University Physicians Healthcare Group Now A New Health Coverage Option in Maricopa County

***Company Has 20 Years of Experience Providing Quality Care at Reasonable Prices to
Small Businesses in Southern Arizona***

Phoenix, AZ, October 25th – University Physicians Health Plans (UPHP), a division of University Physicians Healthcare (UPH), has made its Healthcare Group of Arizona plan for small businesses and the self employed available for the first time in Maricopa County. The plan will provide a much needed additional health care coverage option in the area.

Healthcare Group of Arizona is the state sponsored health plan covering almost 23,000 Arizonans. Healthcare Group was created in 1985 to serve the small business of 50 employees or fewer that make up 93% of the businesses in the state. Almost one million Arizonans (or over 17% of the population) are without health insurance, most of them employed.

Kathleen Oestreich, CEO, UPHP, stated “We are very excited that our University Physicians Healthcare Group plan is now available to the people and businesses of Maricopa County. We are enthusiastic to build upon our 20 year record of providing the plan in Southern Arizona by putting our experience to work in the Phoenix and Maricopa areas.”

University Physicians Healthcare Group is the largest Healthcare Group of Arizona plan in Southern Arizona, with over 8,400 members. Plan membership has grown by over 40% in the last year. UPH is the largest multi-specialty physician organization practicing in Arizona.

University Physicians Healthcare Group offers various flexible HMO plans. Premiums start as low as \$100 and may be funded by employers, employees or a combination of both. Other reasons that University Physicians Healthcare Group is attractive to small businesses include:

- * Affordability,
- * No physicals required,
- * No one turned down due to medical condition,
- * Outstanding personal service,
- * A comprehensive network of doctors,

- * Dental & vision plan availability,
- * Three benefit plans to choose from, and a
- * Simple enrollment process.

UPHP also offers University Family Care (a Medicaid HMO) in Southern Arizona under contract with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. In 2005, UPHP was awarded the management contract of Maricopa Health Plan, a Medicaid HMO serving the citizens of Maricopa County. Under this plan, UPHP manages the healthcare services of 36,000 members.

On October 4th UPHP won an Economic Engine of Arizona award from *Arizona Business Magazine*. UPHP was the only health plan in the state - and one of only two companies based in Tucson, to win. In addition, Oestreich was also named a Woman of Influence in 2005 by *Inside Tucson Business* newspaper for her efforts on behalf of the uninsured.

As Oestreich states "The hard working people of the state deserve reasonably priced healthcare coverage options, and we are proud to be doing our part to deliver it to them."

Additional information about University Physicians Healthcare Group is available at 1-866-407-0960 or www.uphcg.com.

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