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## Illinois' Largest Medicaid Health Plan Expands to Cover All Regions in State

CHICAGO (Sept. 13, 2016) – Meridian Health Plan of Illinois (Meridian) is expanding its Medicaid programs to cover all managed care regions of Illinois. Meridian's health plan will now be offered to Medicaid recipients in 10 additional counties in Central Illinois and will also expand the Medicaid Integrated Care Program (ICP) to the Quad City region.

Meridian is Illinois' largest Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) with 18 percent of the current market. The expansion projects to increase that number by three to four percent. Meridian will become the only MCO servicing all Medicaid regions of Illinois, furthering its commitment to the state's Medicaid programs.

"At Meridian we place care and quality above all else. We are grateful for the opportunity to expand our care coordination and quality improvement programs to these regions," said Karen Brach, president, Meridian Health Plan of Illinois. "We look forward to serving these new communities and appreciate the confidence the State of Illinois has in Meridian."

In the past year, more than 100,000 people joined the Medicaid programming offered by Meridian, many of them through vital care coordination programs, according to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), which oversees Medicaid in Illinois.

"Meridian has played an increasing role in our mission to provide quality care to Medicaid beneficiaries, and this expansion will assure that our clients have access to managed care options in Central Illinois and the Quad Cities," said Felicia Norwood, director, HFS. "This is an exciting step in offering help to those with medical needs at sustainable costs."

Meridian will provide service to these members beginning Jan. 1, 2017 and will continue to expand the provider network in these regions.

To learn more about Meridian Health Plan visit: www.mhplan.com

To learn more about HFS visit: www.illinois.gov/HFS

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