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## CIGNA HealthCare Announces Assistance for Members With Medical Disabilities

### Program to Assist Employees of Businesses with Fewer Than 100 Employees

BLOOMFIELD, Conn., Jan. 10, 2007 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- CIGNA HealthCare today announced that it has engaged the expertise of Social Service Coordinators Disability Services to assist CIGNA HealthCare members who become newly disabled in obtaining eligible Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). The program is targeted to CIGNA HealthCare members working for smaller employers, who often lack the resources to assist their employees when they become disabled and are no longer able to work. The program will also be available for employees' dependents who become newly disabled.

"If you have ever had a debilitating medical condition, you know how difficult it can be to just cope with the condition, not to mention the anxiety of no longer having a regular income," said Michael Showalter, Senior Vice President for HealthCare Strategy and Marketing. "This offering expands our health care advocacy programs by helping members understand that their payroll contributions to Social Security may make them eligible for these additional benefits," added Showalter.

This service, which is offered at no cost to the member or his or her employer, helps those who have become disabled because of a medical condition, and who do not have long-term disability insurance, obtain the disability income to which they may be entitled to through the SSDI program.

Once the member is accepted into the SSDI program, they are then also eventually eligible for health care coverage through Medicare.

"The Social Security Administration has a very thorough application process that members who are also struggling with a disabling medical condition often find difficult to navigate," said Jonathan Mayhew, president of Social Service Coordinators Disability Services. "We have an 85 percent success rate because we help identify people who are legitimately entitled to the benefits and we know how to help them navigate the application process so there are fewer errors to slow down the approval of their application."

The program helps members obtain Medicare as well as cash benefits to help cover their increased medical expenses and lost income. It also protects their Social Security retirement benefits. For the employer, it potentially reduces their medical and pharmacy risk. "And for CIGNA, it's a valuable client and member service," concluded Showalter.

### About CIGNA HealthCare

CIGNA HealthCare, headquartered in Bloomfield, CT, provides medical benefits plans, dental coverage, behavioral health coverage, pharmacy benefits and products and services that integrate and analyze information to support consumerism and health advocacy. "CIGNA" or "CIGNA HealthCare" refers to various operating subsidiaries of CIGNA Corporation (NYSE: CI). Products and services are provided by these operating subsidiaries, and not by CIGNA Corporation.

SOURCE: CIGNA HealthCare

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