



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**REGIONAL PHYSICIAN-OWNED HEALTH PLAN WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS  
PUGET SOUND HEALTH PARTNERS CONTINUES TO EXPAND LEADERSHIP**

(FEDERAL WAY) — Puget Sound Health Partners (PSHP), a Medicare Advantage plan, has announced two new appointments to their board of directors: Dr. Joseph P. Clabots, a thoracic surgery specialist practicing in Lakewood for nearly 25 years; and Dr. Patrick J. Halpin, an orthopedic surgeon in practice for the past 30 years, twenty of which have been in Olympia, and a managing partner of Olympia Orthopaedic Associates for the past four years. Each begins a three-year term on the board this month.

“The addition of committed medical community experts who share in the growth and development of this fast growing private physician-owned health plan allows for us to continue to enhance our partnership with local physicians and member commitments,” said April Golenor, CEO of PSHP.

PSHP is governed by an eight-member board of directors: four directors each appointed by the two independent physician networks who are owners of PSHP: Northwest Physicians Network (NPN) in Tacoma, and Physicians of Southwest Washington (PSW) in Olympia.

“The role of the board member is designed to help facilitate, guide and support our strategic vision. It is with this direction that we have been able to grow and continue to support a 95 percent retention rate with our patient members,” said Golenor.

PSHP has grown to 7,200 patient members in less than three years. The network is comprised of physician and ancillary partners from Snohomish to Lewis County. PSHP intends to continue to not only develop and expand its board of directors but also expand its network of partner physicians. Visions of expansion are targeted at regional markets across Washington for 2011.

“The PSHP network is unique as it is based on a partnership philosophy and that is what strikes me as the number one differentiation to this health plan from others. It is why I wanted to proceed with a board seat and offer my insight and direction to continue to improve the patient and physician partnership,” said Clabots.

Northwest Physicians Network (NPN) is pleased to have one of its founding specialists, Dr. Joseph Clabots as one of the new members serving on the PSHP Board. Dr. Clabots brings not only his experience in providing care to people in the South Sound but has been a leader in furthering NPN’s efforts to improve health care for the people in the Greater-Tacoma community,” said Patrica Briggs, CEO of NPN.

“Serving on the PSHP board is an important role in continuing to make sure medical solutions are being actively pursued, both from a personal as well as societal perspective,” says Halpin of his intentions in joining the board. “At this point in my career, I also believe it is important to be a contributor and become more broadly involved in my profession.”

"I am delighted that Dr. Halpin, who has been a member of PSW since it's founding in 1995, is joining the PSHP board where he will add great value to the governing body of Puget Sound Health Partners," commented Mariella Cummings, CEO of PSW.

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#### **ABOUT PUGET SOUND HEALTH PARTNERS**

Puget Sound Health Partners is a private, locally based health plan for Medicare beneficiaries that is founded and supported by area physicians. Owned by two Independent Physician Associations - Northwest Physicians Network and Physicians of Southwest Washington consisting of 525 original physician owners, 917 specialists, and a growing network which includes 1600 doctors and 15 hospitals. PSHP collaborates with an extensive network of physicians and other health care providers, such as Highline Medical Services Organization, Everett Clinic, Poly Clinic, Swedish Medical Center and Multi-care to offer high quality, affordable care for Medicare enrollees. PSHP currently offers Medicare Advantage plans to 7,200 members in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston and Lewis Counties. For more information, visit [www.OurPSHP.com](http://www.OurPSHP.com)

#### **ABOUT PSHP NETWORK FOUNDERS**

**Northwest Physicians Network, LLC (NPN)** – is a multi-specialty independent physicians association (IPA) comprised of 258 physician owners and over 200 contracted specialty, ancillary and hospital providers. Since 1995, NPN's delivery system has provided coordinated care to individuals in Pierce and south King Counties. Currently, NPN is serving over 15,000 individuals; including 2,000 who are seniors within Medicare Advantage.

**Physicians of Southwest Washington, LLC (PSW)** – is an independent physicians association (IPA) established in 1995. Founded by Olympia-area primary care and specialist physicians, the network's mission is to coordinate and maximize patient quality of care, provide continuity of health plan and provider coverage to patients, assure that local providers control utilization management decisions and that providers are paid fairly and promptly for services. PSW has direct contracts with approximately 250 local medical providers in Thurston and Lewis Counties, including physician owners, local hospitals and physician and ancillary service providers.