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# Baylor Scott & White Quality Alliance Collaborates With Dallas Area Rapid Transit to Improve Quality and Health Care Affordability

**DALLAS - September 27, 2017** - Dallas-based Baylor Scott & White Quality Alliance (BSWQA) has joined forces with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), HealthSCOPE Benefits and Willis Towers Watson in creating an innovative ACO health plan offering. Effective January 1, 2018 this offering aims to improve quality, affordability and productivity for approximately 3,600 DART employees and their dependents.

The new arrangement is a first of its kind for the Dallas Fort Worth market leading the way for employers to contract directly with Third Party Administrators (TPAs) and accountable care organizations (ACOs) to deliver value-based care focused on generating positive health outcomes and reducing costs. Like many employers, DART was looking to create a more affordable health benefit option for its employees; a plan centered on a holistic approach to care that is health outcome oriented and resulting in a better, healthier workforce promoting productivity.

DART's ACO plan uses BSWQA, an ACO which comprises more than 5,000 primary and specialty care physicians, 48 hospitals, post-acute care facilities and other health care stakeholders agreeing to be jointly accountable for improving quality, managing the health of patient populations and reducing health care costs. BSWQA has already proven its capacity to effectively manage the health of patient populations and reduce costs as demonstrated by the group's employee population over a four-year period as follows:

- 13 percent fewer hospital admissions due to better coordinated care
- 19 percent higher use of in-network services for better quality and affordability
- 0 percent medical cost trend
- \$57 million in savings

DART's ACO plan using the BSWQA network is committed to delivering integrated, coordinated, quality health care that effectively manages medical costs by:

- Closing gaps in care, such as missed health screenings or prescription refills
- Helping those with chronic illness to better understand and manage their condition(s)
- Educating members on appropriate use of hospital emergency rooms
- Increasing the number of preventive health visits
- Ensuring follow-up care for people transitioning from the hospital to home
   Cliff Fullerton, President of BSWQA says "BSWQA is proud to bring its care model to the employees and dependents of DART. Our aim is to help our patients better manage their conditions so that they can be healthier and more productive. And we do this by designing our care model to help patients avoid unnecessary trips to the emergency room or hospital and eliminate unnecessary care."

DART Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Mr. David Leininger and Deputy Executive Director Jesse Oliver believe that this is an opportunity to "put our people first and our brand behind the delivery of care." Both Mr. Leininger and Mr. Oliver are excited to see the impact BSWQA will have on the health of the DART population.

DART has opted to employ HealthSCOPE Benefits as its Third Party Administrator (TPA) for its newly developed ACO Plan. HealthSCOPE Benefits supports the ACO Plan's holistic view of health care through its Total Health Management product. HealthSCOPE Benefits through its roots as a network development company is uniquely qualified to collaborate with DART and BSWQA to provide a different level of care to DART members.

DART was guided through this process by the benefit consulting firm Willis Towers Watson. This is one of the first direct contracts with an ACO in the state of Texas. Willis Towers Watson representative Jack Tartaro stated "the way employers are approaching healthcare is changing. There is an abundance of innovative solutions in the marketplace, but the direct contract with BSWQA made perfect sense for DART."

#### **About DART**

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is the regional transit agency for Dallas and 12 surrounding cities. It provides bus, light rail, commuter rail, paratransit and vanpool services to more than 200,000 daily passengers. To learn more about DART visit www.DART.org.

### **About Baylor Scott & White Quality Alliance**

BSWQA is an established accountable care organization (ACO) affiliated with Baylor Scott & White Health (BSWH), the largest not-for-profit health system in Texas. BSWQA is comprised of over 5,000 primary and specialty care providers, 48 hospitals, post-acute care facilities and other health care stakeholders agreeing to be jointly accountable for improving quality, managing the health of patient populations and reducing health care costs. Beginning operations in 2013, BSWQA has successfully implemented value-based strategies that have resulted in significant improvements for quality and cost reductions. Learn more at www.thequalityalliance.com.

# **About Willis Towers Watson**

Willis Towers Watson (NASDAQ: WLTW) is a leading global advisory, broking and solutions company that helps clients around the world turn risk into a path for growth. With roots dating to 1828, Willis Towers Watson has 40,000 employees serving more than 140 countries. We design and deliver solutions that manage risk, optimize benefits, cultivate talent, and expand the power of capital to protect and strengthen institutions and individuals. Our unique perspective allows us to see the critical intersections between talent, assets and ideas the dynamic formula that drives business performance. Together, we unlock potential. Learn more at willistowerswatson.com.

# **About HealthSCOPE Benefits**

HealthSCOPE Benefits is a full-service claims administration and health management firm providing administrative and other support services to self-funded employers. In select geographic markets, the company also works with strategic insurance company partners providing them access to its networks.

Headquartered in Little Rock, AR, HealthSCOPE Benefits administers benefits in all 50 states for more than 200 companies and more than 500,000 members. The company's 700 employees support clients in the management of greater than 1.6 billion in annual healthcare expenditures. It is the country's fourth largest TPA as ranked by Business Insurance magazine based on administrative fee revenue.

HealthSCOPE Benefits does more than just pay medical claims or manage benefits. We are committed to driving quality outcomes and uncommon results. We customize solutions that strike the right balance between keeping healthcare affordable without comprising on value. Our holistic perspective incorporates data analysis, member education, and preventive care incentive programs

to save costs, build a culture of health, and ultimately support a healthier, productive and engaged workforce.