

**October 30, 2001**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RMS DISEASE MANAGEMENT INC.  
TO COORDINATE CARE FOR BLUEGRASS FAMILY HEALTH  
CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE PATIENTS IN KENTUCKY**

**McGaw Park, Ill., October 30, 2001** – RMS Disease Management Inc. announced an agreement today to partner with Bluegrass Family Health to coordinate the care of plan members with chronic kidney disease in the state of Kentucky.

The agreement seeks to improve clinical outcomes and enhance quality of life through advanced disease-management techniques for Bluegrass members with chronic kidney failure and those with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) – patients who are on dialysis because their kidneys have ceased functioning. Patients can participate in this program on a voluntary basis at no extra cost to them.

“The addition of Bluegrass is a natural fit for RMS given the strong relationships we already have with providers in Kentucky,” said Richard Glassock, M.D., retired professor of medicine, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, and a member of RMS’ Medical Advisory Board, which oversees the quality process and sets the clinical direction for the program. RMS has been coordinating care for patients in Kentucky for other health plan clients since 1998.

“Our program has reduced hospitalizations by 35 % and mortality by 20% for the patients whose care we coordinate across the county. I’m pleased to say we can now bring the program that generated those results to the members of the Bluegrass plan.”

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“RMS has demonstrated that its care coordination leads to outstanding clinical improvements,” said Bluegrass Chief Medical Officer, Jaudon E. Behrman, MD, MMM. “Our members have come to expect a high level of expertise and quality care. I’m confident that teaming with RMS will help us to continue improving the care we bring to our members.”

Since 1997, RMS has teamed with nephrologists to create a nationwide renal care delivery system that provides high-quality, cost-effective care for patients with chronic kidney failure and ESRD, while offering predictable costs for health plans. Over the past four years, RMS has become the nation’s leading provider of chronic kidney disease management services.

Approximately 10 million Americans suffer from chronic kidney failure, or reduced kidney function. A subset of that group, more than 300,000, are currently undergoing treatment for ESRD, the complete loss of kidney function, which typically requires four-hour long hemodialysis treatments three times a week. The ESRD patient population is growing by about 7 percent per year. Treatment costs for each patient run between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually.

“In addition to delivering outstanding clinical outcomes, RMS has proven to be successful at developing very positive relations with its patients,” said Bluegrass Project Manager Eugenia Smither, RN. “Our patients will have 24/7 access to RMS’ Health Service Coordinators and they will receive one-to-one counseling from those experienced renal nurses.”

RMS coordinates the care of patients across the nation for private health plans and also manages the State of Florida’s Medicaid program for ESRD patients. In addition, RMS works with chronic kidney failure patients before they need dialysis, in an effort to slow the progression to ESRD and to prepare patients in the best way possible for dialysis and/or transplantation.

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Nationally, RMS has achieved significant benefits for its health plan clients. In 2000, hospital bed days for patients under RMS' care were nearly 45 percent fewer than the average benchmarked for similar patients by the United States Renal Data System (USRDS). Emergency room visits dropped 75 percent for RMS' patients between 1998 and 2000. In addition, nearly 93 percent of RMS' patients last year achieved or exceeded dialysis adequacy targets as compared to the national average of 80 percent.

Bluegrass Family Health, a non-profit Health Maintenance Organization, has been in operation since 1993, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Baptist Healthcare System. Bluegrass currently has more than 106,000 members. For more information, visit the Bluegrass Website at [www.bgfh.com](http://www.bgfh.com).

RMS Disease Management Inc. is an affiliate of Baxter Healthcare Corporation, a global medical-products and services company that provides critical therapies for people with life-threatening conditions. For more information on RMS Disease Management Inc., visit the RMS Website at [www.rmshealthsystems.com](http://www.rmshealthsystems.com).