

**Bybee, Cressinda**

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**From:** Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 09, 2012 9:29 AM  
**To:** Bybee, Cressinda  
**Subject:** Response to Public Comment from Frederick Sams, DMD  
**Attachments:** ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Frederick Sams, DMD, President of the Board of Directors of the Sickle Cell Society, Inc.. I am also copying Dr. Sams with the response by mail at the address appearing in the letterhead of his letter in support of the affiliation of Highmark Inc. and the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

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**BEFORE THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Statement Regarding the Acquisition of Control of or Merger with  
Domestic Insurers:

Highmark Inc.; First Priority Life Insurance Company, Inc.;  
Gateway Health Plan, Inc.; Highmark Casualty Insurance Company;  
Highmark Senior Resources Inc.; HM Casualty Insurance Company;  
HM Health Insurance Company, d/b/a Highmark Health Insurance Company;  
HM Life Insurance Company; HMO of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., d/b/a First Priority  
Health; Inter-County Health Plan, Inc.;  
Inter-County Hospitalization Plan, Inc.; Keystone Health Plan West, Inc.;  
United Concordia Companies, Inc.; United Concordia Dental Plans of Pennsylvania, Inc.;  
United Concordia Life and Health Insurance Company

By UPE, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation

**Response of UPE to  
Comment of Frederick Sams Dated March 21, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Frederick D. Sams, DMD received by the  
Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 23, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document  
0290 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance  
Department website.

Dr. Sams, Board of Directors President of Sickle Cell Society, Inc., has offered his  
support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny  
Health System ("WPAHS"). Dr. Sams notes that for those suffering with lifelong diseases, it is a  
necessity that patients have access to more than one health care provider.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Dr. Sams and finds the proposed affiliation of  
Highmark and WPAHS will ensure the continued vitality of the health system providing patients  
with a choice of providers. The ultimate plan is to build a new integrated health system that will  
deliver value, choice, and high-quality health care services to the citizens of Western  
Pennsylvania.

UPE would like to thank Dr. Sams for his comments and support.

**UPE**  
120 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 9, 2012

cc: Frederick D. Sams, DMD