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**Bybee, Cressinda**

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**From:** Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 10:14 AM  
**To:** Bybee, Cressinda  
**Subject:** Response to the Public Comment Letter from the Allegheny Valley Hospital Trust Board  
**Attachments:** ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from members of the Board of Directors of the Allegheny Valley Hospital Trust. I am also copying the Allegheny Valley Hospital Trust Board with the response by mail at the address appearing in the letterhead of the 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 the Allegheny Valley Hospital Trust Board  
March 8, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from the Allegheny Valley Hospital Trust Board ("Board") received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 16, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0254 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

The Board has offered its support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"). The Board notes that Allegheny Valley Hospital employs 1,085 people and offers a broad spectrum of programs and services to people of the neighboring communities. The Board also believes that it is important that patients be able to access quality health care services in their local communities without the need to travel to outlying hospitals.

UPE is in agreement with the Board and finds this transaction essential to ensuring the continued vitality of Allegheny Valley Hospital and WPAHS and maintaining access to healthcare in the community. 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 the Board for its comments and support.

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

DATE: April 3, 2012

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