

1302

Bybee, Cressinda

From: Brody, Christine [christine.brody@bipc.com] on behalf of Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:55 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: simulation@wpahs.org
Subject: Response to Public Comment of Star Center
Attachments: AutoStoreFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee,

Attached is a response to the public comment received by the Insurance Department from Star Center. I am providing a copy of the response to Donald Wilfong and Donamarie Wilfong.

Ron Chronister

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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 Donald Wilfong Jr., MD and Donamarie N. Wilfong, DNP, RN, STAR Center
at West Penn Allegheny Health System
Dated March 15, 2013

UPE is responding to the comment from Donald Wilfong Jr., MD and Donamarie N. Wilfong, DNP, RN, cofounders of the STAR Center at West Penn Allegheny Health System. The comment was received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department on March 22, 2013 and is numbered as Document 1290 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Department's website.

The Wilfongs have expressed their support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") and West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS"). As the cofounders/directors of the STAR Center at WPAHS, the Wilfongs operate an innovative educational and training center for aspiring medical professionals. The Wilfongs state that the proposed affiliation will allow the STAR Center to continue its work of enabling trainees to perfect various skills prior to patient encounters, thus reducing medical error.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of the Wilfongs and applauds their work in training the medical workforce. Most importantly their work contributes to improving patient care, but it also reduces overall cost by correcting medical errors before they happen. UPE believes that the proposed affiliation will not only sustain WPAHS as a vital economic and community asset, but also the class-leading programs like the STAR Center that are associated with WPAHS.

UPE would like to thank the Wilfongs and the STAR Center for their comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: April 3, 2013

cc: Donald J. Wilfong Jr., MD
Donamarie N. Wilfong, DNP, RN