***Statement from Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner Michael F. Consedine on Highmark’s and West Penn Allegheny Health System Transaction Announcement***

The Insurance Department has been notified that Highmark and West Penn Allegheny Health System have reached an agreement in principle to form an integrated health system in western Pennsylvania. As of this date, however, no formal agreement has yet been signed and no filing has been submitted to the Department for its review.  Ultimately, we expect the Department will be one of the regulators that has a role in reviewing and approving the proposed arrangement between Highmark and West Penn. We cannot formally comment, however, on the process and transaction until we have a filing which we expect to receive sometime late summer.  As governed by state law, the Department’s review process will be open and transparent and take into account the transaction’s impact on consumer, the community, and Highmark’s finances. We will provide updates on our website as we get more information on this proposed transaction.