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Maricopa County Partners with Walgreens and Take Care Health Systems to Open On-site Health Center and Pharmacy

-County Members and Elected Officials to Attend Open House and Ribbon Cutting on January 13-

Phoenix, Ariz. – January 8, 2009 – Maricopa County has partnered with Walgreens, the nation’s largest drugstore chain, and Take Care Health Systems, a wholly owned subsidiary of Walgreens and the largest provider of worksite health and wellness centers and convenient care clinics in the country, to open the County’s on-site health center and pharmacy. Maricopa County has worked with Walgreens Health Initiatives for more than six years to deliver pharmacy benefit management and other health care services to County employees and dependents.

The Take Care Health Center and Walgreens Pharmacy, located at the downtown County Administration Building, will serve active employees and their dependents. The County has 12,500 employees.

“At any time, but especially during these difficult economic times, it is vitally important for Maricopa County to improve employee health and lower expenses for the county and its employees,” Mike Schaiberger, Director of Employee Health Initiatives and Administrator of Innovation for Maricopa County. “We are privileged to continue our innovative relationship with Walgreens and partner with Take Care Health Systems as we strive to provide affordable health care for County employees without sacrificing quality or convenience.”

Workplace-based health care centers and pharmacies are increasingly seen by corporations, municipalities and consumers as a convenient, accessible and cost-effective vehicle for the delivery of high-quality health care and pharmacy services. By proactively managing the health care and pharmaceutical needs of employee communities, these on-site programs help to mitigate the trend of escalating health care costs while also improving employee productivity and producing better health outcomes through more interaction among clinicians and increased patient compliance. Programs also enhance employee job satisfaction to retain highly skilled workers.

The Take Care Health Center will be staffed with a nurse practitioner who will provide treatment for acute, episodic conditions, as well as administer vaccinations. The health center and pharmacy will be open Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Walgreens Health Initiatives will continue to provide prescription benefit management services through the on-site pharmacy, local Walgreens pharmacies, mail service and specialty pharmacies and a network of 6,600+ retail pharmacies across the country. Employees and dependents will be encouraged to use these available health center and pharmacy programs.

“This is a great step forward for Maricopa County,” said Max Wilson, Chairman of Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. “With this in-house pharmacy and health center, our employees can take care of minor health problems and get prescriptions filled in the convenience of the workplace. This will also reduce lost time at work, making for more productive employees.”

“Maricopa County recognizes the benefits a comprehensive on-site health care and pharmacy program can provide to employees, offering both convenience and cost savings,” said Peter Hotz, Walgreens divisional vice president and president of Take Care Health Employer Solutions. “We look forward to addressing the county’s health care and pharmaceutical needs while helping to reduce costs and increase employee productivity and satisfaction.”

Maricopa County, Walgreens and Take Care Health Systems will host an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, January 13 at 10 a.m. in the Second Floor Lobby of the County Administration Building. Several elected county officials will be on hand to discuss the importance of the Take Care Health Center and Walgreens Pharmacy and its benefit to Maricopa County and its employee population. Tours of the site will be given following the ceremony.

About Maricopa County

Maricopa County is the most populous county in Arizona and the fourth largest in the nation. Its county seat is Phoenix, the largest city in Arizona. Through its Employee Health Initiatives program, it has led the nation twice in generic drug dispensing rates (2005 and 2006) and achieved a negative (-2.44 percent) drug trend spending rate in 2007 while maintaining a 97 percent employee health benefit satisfaction rate. Now, Maricopa County hopes to evolve and improve further as an “Employer of Choice.” It expects to innovate and reduce costs further by at least \$575,000 by opening an on-site health center and pharmacy built and operated with funding from Walgreens.

About Walgreens

Walgreens (www.walgreens.com) is the nation's largest drugstore chain with fiscal 2008 sales of \$59 billion. The company operates 6,636 drugstores in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Walgreens provides the most convenient access to consumer goods and services and cost-effective pharmacy, health and wellness services in America through its retail drugstores, Walgreens Health Services division and Walgreens Health and Wellness division. Walgreens Health Services assists pharmacy patients and prescription drug and medical plans through Walgreens Health Initiatives Inc. (a pharmacy benefit manager), Walgreens Mail Service Inc., Walgreens Home Care Inc., Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy LLC and SeniorMed LLC (a pharmacy provider to long-term care facilities). Walgreens Health and Wellness division includes Take Care Health Systems, the largest and most comprehensive provider of worksite health and wellness centers and in-store convenient care clinics, with more than 680 locations throughout the country.

About Take Care Health Systems

Take Care Health Systems (www.takecarehealthsystem.com), a wholly owned subsidiary of Walgreens and part of Walgreens Health and Wellness division, is the largest and most comprehensive provider of worksite health and wellness centers and convenient care clinics in the country. TCHS is comprised of Take Care Consumer Solutions (www.takecarehealth.com) and Take Care Health Employer Solutions (www.takecareemployersolutions.com). Take Care Consumer Solutions manages Take Care Clinics at select Walgreens drugstores throughout the country. Patient care at each of the Take Care Clinics is provided by Take Care Health Services, an independently owned state professional corporation established in each market. Take Care Health Employer Solutions manages primary care, health and wellness, occupational health, pharmacy and fitness centers at large employer campuses. Combined, Take Care Health Systems operates more than 680 worksite and retail health care centers.