

PRESS RELEASE

Nevada Health Centers, Inc.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Nevada Health Centers, Inc. Acts to Support Las Vegans Impacted by Endoscopy Center Practices

- *\$50,000 grant to the Nevada Health Centers to offer free testing to those requiring services*
- *Immediate Termination of Endoscopy Center of Nevada clinics*
- *Online information Available to Public*

Media Contact: Lonnie Haralson 702-307-5414 x 1358

lharonson@nvrhc.org

March 10, 2008 – Las Vegas – Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Nevada announced on March 6, 2008 that the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation will make a \$50,000 donation to the Nevada Health Centers to go toward the free testing and follow-up counseling of Las Vegans who received services from the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada.

“Our hearts go out to those who have suffered distress as a result of this most unfortunate situation,” said Mike Murphy, President, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Nevada. “Our grant will help many of the Las Vegans who have been directed to have tests for hepatitis C, hepatitis B and HIV, to access them at no cost.” Dr. Heard, who is the interim CEO and Chief Medical Officer of Nevada Health Centers states “I am very appreciative to Anthem for moving in a positive direction to assist patients in Las Vegas to get the testing they need. As a community health program, Nevada Health Centers wants to do everything we can to assist with this very important public health issue. We urge all the people who are at risk to get tested.”

Beginning on March 8, 9 and for the next 5 weeks NVHC will have two weekend test sites. The cost of the visit is covered by Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield for everyone. The sites are as follows:

Martin Luther King Family Health Center : 1700 Wheeler Peak Road

Cambridge Family Health Center: 3900 Cambridge Avenue

Times: 9:00 – 4:30 every Saturday and Sunday for the next five weeks

The public can also call 307-5414 and make an appointment during the week to take advantage of the free visit for blood testing.

Anthem has also taken the following actions to protect the health and safety of Las Vegans and provide support to the community during this health crisis. Specifically, Anthem has:

- **Terminated this facility from the network:** As the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada has had its business licenses revoked or suspended, Anthem has terminated its

contract with this facility. To the extent they were in the network, the affiliated providers whose business licenses were revoked or suspended have been similarly terminated.

- **Partnered with the Southern Nevada Health District to determine** how best to provide support and assistance to the Las Vegas community and those people directly affected by this situation. Our intention is to assist the Health District as they manage this process, from notification to screening to follow-up.
- **Identified Anthem members** who received services through the facilities in question so as to share information about testing options, useful support and informational resources and benefit coverage.

Anthem members who have additional questions are encouraged to call Anthem's 24-hour Nurse Line at 1-800-337-4770, log on to the WebMD website, or contact a customer care representative at the number listed on the back of their ID card.

More information about hepatitis and related issues can be found at:

<http://www.webmd.com/hepatitis/hepc-guide/default.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/>