



For Immediate Release

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**NCQA AWARDS WELLCARE OF GEORGIA  
ACCREDITED STATUS**

ATLANTA, GA – August 20, 2008 – WellCare Health Plans, Inc. announced today that WellCare of Georgia has been awarded an Accredited status from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), an independent, nonprofit organization that assesses and reports on the quality of the nation’s managed care plans. WellCare of Georgia’s Accreditation is based on a voluntary review of how a health plan ensures that its members are receiving high-quality care.

“Health plans that step forward to participate in NCQA's New Health Plan Accreditation program early on in their history are to be especially commended,” said Margaret E. O’Kane, President of NCQA. “Our standards are rigorous, and by meeting them, WellCare of Georgia has shown that it is well designed and serious about the quality of care it provides.”

The NCQA Accreditation survey process includes on and off-site evaluations of over 60 standards conducted by a team of physicians and managed care experts. A committee of physicians then analyzes the team’s finding and makes the final determination of Accreditation based on the performance of the plan being evaluated to NCQA’s standards.

“We are an organization committed to continuous quality improvement, and I believe that has been validated by NCQA,” said Michael Cotton, president of WellCare of Georgia. “Each of our employees, providers and management contributed to the NCQA Accreditation process in some way, so we are extremely proud of this achievement.”

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“WellCare of Georgia has always been committed to providing our members with care and services that meet or exceed the industry’s highest standards of quality,” said Heath Schiesser, president and CEO of WellCare Health Plans Inc. “Receiving an objective confirmation that we are fulfilling that commitment, after such a rigorous assessment, is rewarding for all of us.”

The NCQA Accreditation process evaluates how well a health plan manages quality throughout every part of its delivery system—physicians, hospitals, affiliated providers and administrative services—to continuously improve health care for its members.

NCQA's New Health Plan Accreditation Program applies to health plans that are less than 36 months old. The program is distinct from NCQA's MCO Accreditation Program.

More than three-quarters of Americans enrolled in HMOs are in plans that have been reviewed by NCQA and many employers are now mandating accreditation of the plans they offer their employees. No comparable evaluation exists for fee-for-service health care.

### **About WellCare Health Plans, Inc.**

WellCare Health Plans, Inc. provides managed care services exclusively for government-sponsored healthcare programs, focusing on Medicaid and Medicare. Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, WellCare offers a variety of health plans for families, children, the aged, blind and disabled and prescription drug plans, currently serving more than 2.4 million members nationwide. For more information about WellCare, please visit the Company’s website at [www.wellcare.com](http://www.wellcare.com).

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