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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

February 2, 2006

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### **Rocky Mountain Health Plans Maintains Higher Level of Medicare Reimbursement Rates Despite 2006 Federal Rate Reduction**

(Grand Junction, Colo.) – Last year, Medicare announced a cut in 2006 Medicare reimbursement rates by more than 4 percent nationally, but the providers in the Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP) network whose reimbursement is based on current Medicare rates do not have to worry. That's because the Colorado not-for-profit health plan will not mirror to the Medicare cuts .

“A cornerstone of our success is our relationship with our providers,” said John Hopkins, president and CEO of Rocky Mountain Health Plans. “We did not have to make this decision, but we feel it makes an important statement about the value we place on our provider partners and how much we appreciate their continued participation with us in providing our Members with the highest levels of quality care.”

For those contracted providers whose reimbursement is based on current Medicare rates, Rocky Mountain Health Plans will continue to use the higher 2005 reimbursement rate scale. Congress is expected to address the national Medicare cut later this year.

#### **About Rocky Mountain Health Plans**

Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP) provides medical benefit plans and services to 205,065 enrollees. The organization was founded in 1974 and offers a wide range of medical benefit options, including PPO, HMO, shared-funding, and partially self-funded medical plans. We also provide health plans for Medicare and Medicaid-eligible persons and children who receive care under Colorado's Child Health Plan Plus program.

In the 2005 *Health Matters Quality Report* by the Colorado Business Group on Health, RMHP received one of the highest ratings in overall health care. We also received top approval ratings in helpful customer service, speedy approval times, and trouble-free access to specialty care.

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