



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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***MAMSI RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH WESTERN MARYLAND HEALTH SYSTEM***

**Cumberland, Md.** -- Mid Atlantic Medical Services, Inc. (MAMSI) and Western Maryland Health System (WMHS) announced today that, effective immediately, *all* MAMSI health plan members may use WHMS for outpatient commercial medical laboratory services.

“We are pleased to renew our partnership with Western Maryland Health System,” said Thomas P. Barbera, President and CEO of MAMSI. “We fully appreciate and value the role they play in this community. We recognize that our commitment to providing access to quality health care and excellent service in Western Maryland can best be achieved by allowing our HMO members and their treating physicians to choose for themselves to use Western Maryland Health Systems or LabCorp for outpatient commercial medical laboratory services. We will be working more closely with Western Maryland Health System in the future and will continue to listen to our physician partners and health plan members.”

MAMSI is one of the region’s largest health services companies. Its health plans include: two HMOs, MD-Individual Practice Association, Inc. (M.D. IPA) and Optimum Choice, Inc.® (OCI); a life and health insurer, MAMSI Life and Health Insurance Company (MLH); and a preferred provider organization, Alliance PPO, LLC.

“I am pleased that the Western Maryland Health System can resume providing outpatient laboratory services to MAMSI members in Western Maryland,” remarked Barry Ronan, President/CEO of Western Maryland Health System. “I appreciated the quick response by Tom Barbera, MAMSI’s President and CEO, in addressing our concerns and meeting with us to reach an agreement that will give their members access to our network of outpatient laboratory services. Their willingness to work with Western Maryland Health System to expand the outpatient laboratory options for their members demonstrates their commitment to providing excellent service to their members. We look forward to working with MAMSI to ensure quality health care services for their members in our region.”

The WMHS provides comprehensive health care services to residents in Allegany County and surrounding counties in Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. In addition to the outpatient laboratory services available at Memorial and Sacred Heart Hospitals in Cumberland, outpatient laboratory services are provided at five other WMHS locations in Allegany County.

The ability of MAMSI health plan members to use WMHS was of great concern to the Western Maryland community and its political leaders.

“I am pleased that MAMSI and Western Maryland Health System have renewed their partnership,” said Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates. “It is important for the vitality of our community to continue to build working partnerships among all Maryland companies in order to reach the highest level of quality of care for all our citizens. I hope MAMSI will use its positive experience with WHMS to find a way to work with other affected providers in Allegany County.”