

# NEWS RELEASE

ARTHRTIS  
AND  
RHEUMATISM  
ASSOCIATES, P.C.

MAMSI

A UnitedHealthcare Company

Contact: ARA:  
Margaret Dieckhoner  
Phone: 301-942-7600  
E-mail: [mdieckhoner@arapc.com](mailto:mdieckhoner@arapc.com)

MAMSI/UnitedHealthcare:  
Beth Sammis  
Phone: 301-838-5638  
E-mail: [bsammis@mamsi.com](mailto:bsammis@mamsi.com)

*(For Immediate Release)*

## **Arthritis and Rheumatism Associates and MAMSI Health Plans/UnitedHealthcare Announce New Agreement**

**Rockville, Maryland** (January 17, 2005) – Arthritis and Rheumatism Associates, P.C. (ARA) and Mid Atlantic Medical Services, LLC (MAMSI Health Plans), a UnitedHealthcare Company, announced today that they have agreed to a new four-year contract. The new agreement is applicable to all MAMSI Health Plans and UnitedHealthcare customers using ARA. The new contract begins February 1, 2005, and extends through December 31, 2008. Specific terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

“We value our longstanding relationships with MAMSI Health Plans and their enrollees,” said Dr. Herbert S. B. Baraf, Managing Partner of Arthritis and Rheumatism Associates. “With this new contract, the twelve rheumatologists of ARA welcome the opportunity to provide UnitedHealthcare enrollees the same comprehensive care, with access to our physical therapy, osteoporosis and clinical research programs.”

Thomas P. Barbera, president and CEO of MAMSI Health Plans stated, “We are pleased to extend our partnership with ARA. Our new agreement helps ensure continued access to high-quality, affordable health care for MAMSI Health Plans and UnitedHealthcare customers in Montgomery County, Maryland and Washington D.C.”

ARA is the largest rheumatology practice in the Washington, D. C. area. Serving the community for more than 25 years, the group is dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment and research of persons with rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus, low back pain, and osteoporosis as well as other disorders of the joints, bones, tendons and muscles. ARA has offices in Wheaton, Rockville, Chevy Chase and Laurel, Maryland as well as in Northwest Washington, D.C.

MAMSI Health Plans include MD-Individual Practice Association, Inc. (M.D. IPA), Optimum Choice, Inc. (OCI), Alliance PPO, LLC (Alliance) and MAMSI Life and Health Insurance Company (MLH). MAMSI Health Plans serve about 1.9 million people in the mid-Atlantic region. UnitedHealthcare is one of the operating businesses of UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH), a diversified *Fortune* 100 health and well-being company based in Minneapolis, Minn. UnitedHealthcare offers consumer-oriented health benefit plans and services nationwide and currently purchases health care services on behalf of 11 million Americans.

###