



Saint Mary's Health Plans

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Saint Mary's Health Plans Introduces No-Cost Disability Advocacy for Saint Mary's Health Plans Members

Reno, NV-Saint Mary's Health Plan has selected Tethys Health Ventures (Tethys) in partnership with Social Service Coordinators, Inc., the nation's premier provider of government program advocacy services, to assist Saint Mary's Health Plan members interested in applying for disability benefits offered through the Social Security Administration. Currently, Saint Mary's Health Plan is the only health plan in the state of Nevada to implement this program. Our goal is to continue to provide superior service for which Saint Mary's Health Plan has come to be known and to maintain our competitive rates.

The federal disability programs are designed to help individuals who are no longer able to support themselves due to a health condition or conditions. In addition to a monthly cash benefit, eligible members will, after a waiting period, become eligible for Medicare. Social Security Disability applications are complex, requiring medical and administrative documentation of eligibility. Many potentially eligible members are unaware of the programs, or have been unable to submit a complete application. SSC is uniquely positioned to help these members with electronic recreation of all relevant forms, and professional disability advocates who serve as the member's authorized representative.

SSC will provide Saint Mary's Health Plans members with professional advocacy through initial applications and, where necessary, reconsideration and appeals. Alan Flaumenhaft, SSC's Chief Executive Officer commented, "Many members are unaware of their eligibility, or that they have paid into a federal insurance program to provide benefits in the event of deterioration in health. We at SSC are pleased to be able to educate the population about these programs and to provide professional disability assistance. We believe that Saint Mary's Health Plans has shown a strong commitment to serving its most "at-risk" members."

This service will help members access the federal cash benefits for which they are eligible, as well as coverage through Medicare, and protection of future Social Security retirement benefits. According to Don Kowitz Saint Mary's Health Plans executive, "We are excited to expand our services to Saint Mary's Health Plans members. After extensive investigation we are convinced that SSC will provide superior service to help Saint Mary's Health Plans members who are eligible. With over 60% of all first time applications being rejected by the Social Security Administration, we recognized that qualifying for these benefits was a difficult challenge – a challenge we are pleased to help our members meet."

About Tethys Health Ventures

Tethys Health Ventures helps Managed Care Organizations manage and mitigate risk through innovative programs including care management, network management, and government program eligibility services. In partnership with premier reinsurers, Tethys provides unique programs of Organ Transplant Management and HMO Excess ReinsuranceAdministration.

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