



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tennova Healthcare to Help Consumers Sign Up for Health Insurance Coverage

Free workshops held at Tennova hospitals in East Tennessee

KNOXVILLE, TN – (November 13, 2014) Beginning November 15, Tennova Healthcare will help area residents learn about and enroll in health insurance options on the Health Insurance Marketplace. The health system has planned several free workshops to help individuals enroll.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, most U.S. citizens are required to have health insurance beginning in 2014. During the first enrollment wave, which began in October of 2013 and ended in March of this year, nearly 10 million uninsured individuals enrolled in a Marketplace plan. Yet, approximately 30 million Americans remain uninsured.

“As a primary healthcare provider in East Tennessee, we want to help educate residents in an easy-to-understand way, as well as assist those who haven’t yet signed up for health insurance or TennCare, if qualified,” said Neil Heatherly, chief executive officer of Tennova Healthcare. “During the next few months, we’ll be going out into the community to educate consumers, hosting in-hospital events, and meeting one-on-one to help these individuals find affordable coverage for themselves and their family.”

Health Plans on Health Insurance Marketplace

The Health Insurance Marketplace provides U.S. citizens access to affordable health insurance coverage. Depending on household income, some individuals may qualify for financial assistance from the government – or subsidies – toward the cost of the premium and other financial obligations like co-pays or deductibles.

All health plans on the Marketplace must offer a comprehensive set of benefits, and individuals cannot be denied coverage based on a pre-existing condition. Some of the health benefits include preventive care and wellness services, doctor visits, prescription drugs, hospital and emergency department care, lab services, pediatric services and more.

Open enrollment for health coverage:
Nov. 15, 2014 to Feb. 15, 2015

Application counselors can help individuals enroll at a free workshop from **8:00 a.m. to Noon** in the hospital registration department.

November 22, 2014
Physicians Regional Medical Center

December 6, 2014
Jefferson Memorial Hospital
LaFollette Medical Center
Newport Medical Center

Attendees should bring a picture ID, social security number or immigrant documentation, employer and income information, and any current health coverage and physician information.

Application counselors will assist attendees on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additional workshops will be held at Tennova hospitals in January and February of 2015.

If you can afford health insurance coverage in 2015, but don't sign up, you may have to pay a penalty (\$325.00 per adult, \$162.50 per child—up to \$975.00 per family or 2 percent of family income, whichever is higher). And, without insurance, you will be financially responsible for all of your medical costs.

"This is where Tennova can help," Heatherly said. "With many people in our community lacking access to a computer or having difficulty enrolling on the government's website, our application counselors can help. We can assist individuals and their families evaluate the health plan options and determine if they are eligible for TennCare or other financial assistance."

TennCare

In all states, Medicaid (known as TennCare in the state of Tennessee) provides health coverage for some low-income individuals, families and children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In some states, the program covers all low-income adults below a certain income level.

"Even though Tennessee has chosen not to expand TennCare, there are still many individuals in our community who qualify for coverage," Heatherly said. "We can help screen these individuals and, if they qualify, we can enroll them at any time, with health coverage beginning immediately."

Though a major function of www.healthcare.gov is assessing whether individuals and families qualify for financial help to lower the cost of health insurance, Tennova's application counselors can perform the same analysis and help with the sign-up process. To make an appointment to meet with an application counselor, call:

- Jefferson Memorial Hospital – 865-471-2680
- Lakeway Regional Hospital – 423-522-6055
- LaFollette Medical Center – 423-907-1645
- Newport Medical Center – 423-625-4527
- North Knoxville Medical Center – 865-859-1272
- Physicians Regional Medical Center – 865-545-3200
- Turkey Creek Medical Center – 865-218-7509

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About Tennova Healthcare

Tennova Healthcare operates seven acute-care hospitals and several other healthcare facilities in East Tennessee. Physicians Regional Medical Center, Turkey Creek Medical Center, North Knoxville Medical Center, Jefferson Memorial Hospital, LaFollette Medical Center, Newport Medical Center and Lakeway Regional Hospital make up the healthcare system. More than 1,000 of the area's leading physicians are on the active staff at Tennova facilities. One of East Tennessee's largest employers, Tennova has more than 4,000 associates dedicated to providing compassionate care using the latest medical technology. For more information, visit Tennova.com.