



**Contact:**

Gina Pferdehirt  
Director, Public Relations & Community Relations  
UPMC Health Plan  
412-454-4953  
[pferdehirtgm@upmc.edu](mailto:pferdehirtgm@upmc.edu)

**UPMC Health Plan's Chronis Manolis to Speak on Containing Health Care Costs  
Talk Is Part of Blair County Chamber of Commerce's Healthcare Insurance Series**

ALTOONA, Pa. (September 23, 2008) – Chronis Manolis, Vice President of Pharmacy for UPMC Health Plan, will talk about “How Technology and Pharmacy Influence the Ability of Businesses to Keep Ahead of Healthcare Costs,” as part of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce’s 2008-09 healthcare insurance lecture series.

Manolis is one of four speakers who will participate in the first of four sessions that the Blair Chamber will sponsor on the subject, “Identifying and Addressing the Cost-Drivers of Healthcare.” Session 1 will be held Wednesday, September 24, 2008, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Penn State Altoona Devorris Downtown Conference Center.

“There are opportunities to contain costs in pharmacy and employers need to be aware of them,” says Manolis. “Take, for example, the increased use of generic drugs. Consumer acceptance of generic drugs has grown in recent years and the current generic market is extremely favorable. Over the next five years, 63 of the most popular drugs will be available in a generic version.”

Manolis oversees the pharmacy programs for UPMC Health Plan’s commercial, Medicare, and Medical Assistance products. He has over 20 years experience in the pharmacy and managed care industry.

Also speaking at Session 1 will be Misty Kagarise of Saint Francis University and Catherine Lambert of Penn State Altoona, who will discuss “The Impact of Environment

and Lifestyle on Healthcare.” Shelly Bloom, President-elect of the Pennsylvania Health Underwriters will talk about “Legislative Policy Issues.”

##

**About UPMC Health Plan**

UPMC Health Plan, the second-largest health insurer in Western Pennsylvania, is owned by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), one of the nation's top-ranked health systems. The integrated partner companies of the UPMC Insurance Services Division – which includes UPMC Health Plan, UPMC Work Partners, EAP Solutions, UPMC *for You* (Medical Assistance), and Community Care Behavioral Health – offer a full range of group health insurance, Medicare, CHIP, Medical Assistance, behavioral health, employee assistance, and workers' compensation products and services to nearly 1.2 million members. Our local provider network includes UPMC as well as community providers, totaling more than 80 hospitals and more than 7,600 physicians in a 29-county region. For more information, visit [www.upmchealthplan.com](http://www.upmchealthplan.com).