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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

***FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE - MORE QUESTIONS THAN
ANSWERS***

As the cost of health insurance dangerously approaches 20% of the United States' Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a conscious effort has been undertaken by President Barack Obama and his administration to tackle the rising costs. We at Healthcare Associates in Medicine, P.C. are taking a close look at these efforts. Upon closer inspection we are coming up with many questions that require serious discussion. With the economy in the current state it is in, the cost of healthcare in the United States is more important than ever. But are the elements on the table beneficial for all involved or only for a select few?

The phrase "cost containment" has been used without immunity. But whose costs are actually going to be contained? Will it be the insurance companies, who are already trying to cut costs and pay providers less than they're worth? Should these insurance companies be allowed to determine the type of care patients receive? Or will the cost be contained by providers? And what does it mean if providers have to contain costs? Does that mean they have to provide service to fewer patients?

There are other important questions. With limited resources and treatment needed by many, who will make the decision of who receives what when? Will healthcare become a glorified rationing system where those who have the money receive it and those who don't don't? And what will happen to those

who can't afford the increasing cost? Will they receive nothing? Or will they be pushed to the back of the line, waiting months just to receive an MRI to diagnose their ailment?

These are all important issues that affect our patients and our industry and thus are not easily dismissed. As health care providers for many Staten Islanders, we will be keeping a close eye on these reform attempts. Our physicians, who specialize in neurology, neurological surgery, orthopaedics and pain management are the community's preeminent providers of coordinated neurological, neuromuscular and musculoskeletal services. Dedicated to providing our patients with the very best in medical care, we at Healthcare are committed to the ongoing advancement and development of our specialty services.

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