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Validare and PlanCare America/NPPN Join forces

Announce relationship to bring increased health care cost savings and patient safety to South Carolina

New York, New York (Oct 20, 2008) — Validare, the nation's leading accreditation consulting company to office-based surgery providers, and PlanCare America/NPPN, members of the Coalition America, Inc. family of companies, are proud to announce an alliance aimed at providing patients with expanded options for certain outpatient surgery procedures in settings that allow for continued cost containment. Under the agreement, physician offices that have qualified and become accredited as office-based surgery (OBS) facilities through the Validare Prepare™ program will be eligible to contract with PlanCare America/NPPN for OBS rates.

"For high volume outpatient procedures, this provides a cost effective alternative to expensive hospital facilities while maintaining a high quality of patient care," comments Rock Rockett, PhD, CEO of Validare. OBS providers are accredited by one of three qualified accreditation organizations, which ensure that specific patient safety guidelines and protocols have been established and are maintained. This has prompted health plans to revisit the cost benefit of outpatient surgeries performed in the office setting.

PlanCare America/NPPN anticipates cost savings by shifting outpatient procedures currently performed in the hospital to an accredited OBS provider. They have partnered with Validare to promote both cost containment and patient safety to patients across the country. "We see this as a win-win for all involved: patient, provider and health plan," notes Larry Madlem, Vice President of PlanCare America/NPPN. "We are able to reduce our costs for some high volume outpatient procedures while the patient is cared for in a comfortable, familiar setting committed to patient safety. And, the provider is appropriately reimbursed for this role in the continuum of care."

Long a supporter of the blend of patient safety and cost containment, Validare has spent considerable time meeting with health plans on behalf of the OBS providers they support with accreditation preparation and maintenance consulting services. To facilitate the relationship with Plan Care America/NPPN, Validare will submit the OBS claims through the Validare Gateway™, the proprietary web-based system that collects OBS provider data required to maintain accreditation.

"We continue to expand into new states, including the Carolinas," notes Rockett. "We are working on getting the word out to physicians who are eager to differentiate their practice in areas such as patient safety and build their practice by becoming more efficient with their time. And, we know this is one good solution to cost containment."

PlanCare America/NPPN is a market leader providing a comprehensive solution to managing healthcare costs. "We are encouraged by what we have seen in the OBS setting and it makes sense for us to have our members benefit from this option," comments PlanCare American/NPPN's Madlem. "By working with Validare, we can take advantage of their expertise with OBS providers and their cost savings which benefits all of our clients."

About Validare

Validare is the industry leader in accreditation consulting for office-based surgery (OBS) providers. With offices in New York, Chicago and San Francisco, Validare provides patient safety advocacy and assistance to physicians and their offices in preparation for and maintaining OBS accreditation. Recognized as a valuable partner to both OBS offices and health plans, Validare's clients provides health plans with access to qualified OBS providers who provide an alternative to costly outpatient procedures performed in the hospital setting. For more information about Validare, call 888-934-4321 or visit www.Validare.com.

Coalition America, Inc.

Coalition America, Inc. is a market leader providing comprehensive solutions for managing healthcare costs. CAI utilizes a suite of products and services including direct provider contracts, PPO networks and provider negotiations to achieve industry leading savings for its national client base of health insurance carriers, self insured employers, Taft-Hartley plans and third party administrators. NPPN and PlanCare America are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Coalition America, Inc.