



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sam Caruso, Jr. Suzanne Whitaker  
carusos@smhplus.org suzanne.whitaker@peopleshealth.com  
985-649-8834 504-681-8978

### Slidell Memorial Hospital Joins Peoples Health Hospital Network

Slidell, La.—(December 2, 2009)—Slidell Memorial Hospital (SMH) is pleased to announce that it is now a participating provider in the Peoples Health hospital network. Through this new partnership, Peoples Health plan members will now have access to SMH, a premier healthcare facility on the Northshore. The SMH Board of Commissioners approved the contract with Peoples Health during its board meeting on Monday, Nov. 30.

As of Dec. 1, 2009, SMH joins just one other medical facility in Slidell that participates with the Peoples Health plans. Under this new agreement, SMH will now serve enrollees of the following plans: Choices 65 (HMO), Choices Plus (HMO-POS), HealthCare Select (PPO), Peoples Health Group Medicare (HMO-POS) and Secure Health (HMO). And, starting in January 2010, Choices Select (HMO-POS) plan members may access services at SMH as well.

“As a community hospital, our goal is to take care of the people in our area by providing superior healthcare services,” said hospital Chief Financial Officer Bill Davis. “This new contract with Peoples Health will help more community members get the care they need.”

Peoples Health Chief Executive Officer Carol Solomon said, “By partnering with Slidell Memorial Hospital, we can provide our plan members with more options for accessing their healthcare services. We look forward to this partnership and the additional freedom it will allow our members in choosing where to receive their hospital care.”

Peoples Health is a locally owned and operated organization, providing benefits exclusively to Medicare recipients in southeast Louisiana.

#### **ABOUT PEOPLES HEALTH**

Established in 1994, Peoples Health administers Medicare benefits for 42,000 southeast Louisiana residents enrolled in the Choices 65 (HMO), Choices Plus (HMO-POS), Secure Health (HMO), HealthCare Select (PPO) and Peoples Health Group Medicare (HMO-POS) health plans. Peoples Health will offer an additional plan, Choices Select (HMO-POS), in 2010. More than 450 employees work at Peoples Health corporate offices in Metairie, Louisiana and a regional office in Baton Rouge. Peoples Health is accredited by URAC, a Washington, D.C. - based healthcare accrediting organization. More information about Peoples Health can be obtained by visiting [www.peopleshealth.com](http://www.peopleshealth.com).

**ABOUT SMH**

Slidell Memorial Hospital is a full-service 182-bed acute care not-for-profit community hospital located at 1001 Gause Blvd., in the heart of Slidell. Founded in 1959, SMH is the third-largest employer in St. Tammany Parish, employing 1,100 full-, part-time and pool clinical and administrative employees. SMH services as a primary healthcare resource for families in St. Tammany Parish, La.; Pearl River County, Miss.; and the greater Mississippi Gulf Coast region. It is located online at <http://www.slidellmemorial.org>.

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