



The Insurance Information Source

NEWS RELEASE

A.M. BEST COMPANY, OLDWICK, NJ • A.M. BEST INTERNATIONAL, LONDON

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<http://www.ambest.com>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**A.M. Best Affirms Financial Strength and Debt Ratings
of Wellpoint Health Networks, Inc.; Revises Debt Outlook to Stable**

Ratings Supplement

The financial strength ratings of A (Excellent) have been affirmed with a stable outlook for the following subsidiaries of WellPoint Health Networks Inc.:

- **Blue Cross of California**
- **BC Life & Health Insurance Company**
- **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc.**
- **Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthcare Plan of Georgia, Inc.**
- **Greater Georgia Life Insurance Company**
- **Healthy Alliance Life Insurance Company**
- **HMO Missouri, Inc.**

The financial strength ratings of A- (Excellent) have been affirmed with a stable outlook for the following subsidiaries of WellPoint Health Networks Inc.:

- **HealthLink HMO, Inc.**
- **UNICARE Life & Health Insurance Company**
- **UNICARE Health Plans of the Midwest, Inc.**
- **UNICARE Health Insurance Company of the Midwest**
- **UNICARE Health Plans of Texas**
- **UNICARE Health Plan of Virginia, Inc.**

The financial strength ratings of B++ (Very Good) have been affirmed with a positive outlook for the following subsidiaries of WellPoint Health Networks Inc.:

- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin**
- **Compcare Health Services Insurance Corporation**

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- **Unity Health Plans Insurance Corporation**
- **Valley Health Plan, Inc.**
- **United Heartland Life Insurance Company**
- **United Wisconsin Insurance Company**

The following indicative ratings have been affirmed with a stable outlook on securities available under the \$1 billion shelf registration

WellPoint Health Networks Inc.—

- “a-” on senior unsecured debt
- “bbb+” on subordinated debt
- “bbb” on preferred stock

The following debt ratings have been affirmed with a stable outlook:

WellPoint Health Networks Inc.—

- “a-” on \$450 million 6.375% senior unsecured notes, due 2006
- “a-” on \$350 million 6.375% senior unsecured notes, due 2012
- “AMB-2” on \$1 billion on commercial paper program

A.M. Best Co., established in 1899, is the world’s oldest and most authoritative insurance rating and information source. For more information, visit A.M. Best’s Web site at www.ambest.com.

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