



The Insurance Information Source

# NEWS RELEASE

A.M. BEST COMPANY, OLDWICK, NJ  
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[www.ambest.com](http://www.ambest.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**A.M. Best Upgrades Ratings of WellPoint Subsidiaries**

**Ratings Supplement**

The financial strength ratings of A- (Excellent) have been upgraded to A (Excellent) for the following subsidiaries of WellPoint Health Networks Inc.:

- **Healthy Alliance Life Insurance Company**
- **HMO Missouri, Inc.**

The financial strength ratings of A (Excellent) have been affirmed 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**

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

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

The following indicative ratings on securities available under the new \$1 billion shelf

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registration have been assigned:

**WellPoint Health Networks Inc.—**

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

The following debt ratings have been affirmed:

**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](http://www.ambest.com).**

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