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Gov. Jim Doyle, Navitus Health Solutions' Allan Zimmerman Announce BadgerRx Gold[™] Program Prevented 240 Possible Drug Interactions

On Average, Program Saves Participants 23 Percent on Prescriptions

MADISON, Wis., Aug. 8, 2005 – Gov. Jim Doyle, along with Allan Zimmerman, president and CEO of Navitus Health Solutions LLC, announced today that the BadgerRx Gold Program – which gives citizens the chance to buy prescription drugs at a lower price – has prevented more than 240 possible drug interactions in the first two months of the program. Twenty-three of these interactions were severe or life-threatening.

“I’m pleased that we’re not only ensuring that quality prescription drugs are accessible and affordable, we’re helping to make sure that citizens receive yet another safety check when they pick up a prescription from their local pharmacy,” Gov. Doyle said. “BadgerRx Gold double checks to make sure your prescription doesn’t conflict with another medication you’re taking.”

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BadgerRx Gold Program Prevented 240 Possible Drug Interactions 2-2-2

Gov. Doyle and Zimmerman attribute the results to the program's emphasis on quality and safety, and specifically, to an important feature of the program known as drug utilization review (DUR). Through drug utilization review, potential drug interactions, duplication of therapy, and inappropriate dosing can be identified before a prescription is dispensed.

"Through BadgerRx Gold, every prescription is reviewed for potential drug interactions," Zimmerman said. "The pharmacist is alerted to the possible drug interactions prior to dispensing the prescription. This safety feature is particularly useful when members don't always visit the same pharmacy. BadgerRx Gold assures every precaution is taken to protect Wisconsin residents."

Anthony Staresinic, a Navitus pharmacist, said that one example of a potential drug interaction that he found was when the medication Amiodarone was dispensed to a patient on the common anticoagulant Coumadin. If the two drugs had been administered together, it could have resulted in serious bleeding.

Gov. Doyle also announced today that thousands of prescriptions have been filled and that on average, participants have seen a savings of more than 23 percent.

"Citizens across Wisconsin are seeing real savings through BadgerRx Gold," Gov. Doyle said. "At a time of high gas prices and skyrocketing prescription drug costs, I'm pleased that the state is able to help provide relief."

BadgerRx Gold is based on a prescription drug plan for state employees that saved Wisconsin \$25 million in its first year. The program is an expansion of a public-private partnership Gov. Doyle established in 2003 between the State Group Insurance Board and Navitus Health Solutions.

BadgerRx Gold builds on the state's purchasing power to reduce prescription drug prices and save money. More than 700 of the 880 pharmacies statewide are participating in the program. Pharmacies provide discounts and drug manufacturers offer rebates on covered medications. The BadgerRx Gold Program passes the combined savings to members at the point-of-purchase at local participating pharmacies. For more information about BadgerRx Gold, call 866-809-9382 or visit www.badgerxgold.com.

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BadgerRx Gold Program Prevented 240 Possible Drug Interactions 3-3-3

About Navitus

Navitus Health Solutions LLC is a health management company that specializes in pharmacy benefit management services. The company's services include benefit design and consulting, formulary management, pharmacy network management, and clinical programs. Headquartered in Madison, the company provides its services to more than 228,000 state employees, retirees, and their dependents as well as more than 240,000 individuals outside of the state employee group. For more information about Navitus Health Solutions, visit www.navitus.com.