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VI NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SECURES OVERSEAS CARE

Overseas care is now coordinated through UnitedHealthcare

Road Town, Tortola, June 20, 2017– The Virgin Islands National Health Insurance System (NHI) is partnering with UnitedHealthcare to provide overseas healthcare access for the Territory’s residents.

The temporary agreement was signed in March for a six month duration in the first instance, and creates access to providers throughout the United States of America, United Kingdom, Europe, Asia and other parts of the world.

Deputy Director of the Social Security Board, with responsibility for NHI, Mr. Roy Barry said, “NHI has a responsibility to create access to healthcare for all of its registrants. In the event where we need to send a patient overseas, we must have a network coordinated by a third-party administrator, and that is the reason for [partnering with] UnitedHealthcare.”

He added, “We are pleased with our partnership with UnitedHealth thus far and have seen benefits for customers in both lower costs and added convenience.”

Regarding lower cost benefits, Mr. Barry said, “So far, the cost savings have been tremendous. We have seen as high as an 80-percent cost saving, which proves excellent for not only NHI, but also the patient. The co-pay for the patient is much less than if they had accessed care outside of the Territory without NHI.”

The NHI chief also said he is very confident that the contract with UnitedHealthcare will be extended due to the positive results seen thus far.

UnitedHealthcare is an operating division of UnitedHealth Group. UnitedHealthcare’s US network includes 595,000 physicians and other health care professionals, 80,000 dentists and 4,965 hospitals. More information can be found online at www.unitedhealthcareonline.com.

Prior to UnitedHealthcare, JIPA Network was contracted to coordinate overseas healthcare access for Virgin Islands residents. The contract with JIPA Network came to an end in January 2017.

Visit the NHI website at www.vinhi.vg or call the NHI offices at (284) 852-7860 for more information about registration, contributions or healthcare providers.

National Health Insurance is designed to improve health outcomes and provide financial risk protection by ensuring that every resident of the Virgin Islands will have affordable access to the health services they need.

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Notes to Editor(s): Photograph and audio are attached.

Photo caption: Mr. Roy Barry, Deputy Director of the Social Security Board, with responsibility for the National Health Insurance pauses during an interview with Information Officer II Ms. Adrianna Soverall for a photo opportunity. **(Photo credit: A. Glasgow/ VI NHI)**

Audio: Interview with Roy Barry and Adrianna Soverall **(Credit: A. Soverall/ GIS)**