

March 2, 2011



LHC Group Announces Fourth Quarter and Year-End 2010 Results

Company Also Announces Guidance for Fiscal Year 2011

Highlights:

Net service revenue was \$168.1 million for the fourth quarter of 2010 and \$635.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Diluted earnings per share was \$0.63 for the fourth quarter of 2010 and \$2.68 for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Organic growth in net revenue was 11.4% for the fourth quarter of 2010 and organic growth in net revenue was 19.4% for the year ended December 31, 2010.

LAFAYETTE, La., March 2, 2011 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- LHC Group, Inc.

(Nasdaq:LHCG), a national provider of home health and hospice services, announced today its financial results for the three months and year ended December 31, 2010.

Financial Results for the Fourth Quarter

Net service revenue for the fourth quarter of 2010 increased 18.8% to \$168.1 million from \$141.5 million for the fourth quarter of 2009.

Net income attributable to LHC Group for the fourth quarter of 2010 decreased 9.6% to \$10.5 million from \$11.5 million for the fourth quarter of 2009.

Diluted earnings per share decreased 10.0% to \$0.63 for the fourth quarter of 2010 from \$0.70 for the fourth quarter of 2009.

Financial Results for the Year

Net service revenue for the year ended December 31, 2010, increased 19.4% to \$635.0 million from \$531.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Net income attributable to LHC Group for the year ended December 31, 2010, increased 10.3% to \$26.5 million from \$23.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Diluted earnings per share increased 10.3% to \$2.68 for the year ended December 31, 2010 from \$2.42 for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Guidance

The Company also announced its net revenue and fully diluted earnings per share guidance for fiscal-year 2011. Fiscal-year net service revenue is expected to be in the range of \$660 million to \$670 million and fully diluted earnings per share is expected to be in the range of \$2.15 to \$2.25. This guidance does not take into account the impact of any future acquisitions or share repurchases, if made, or de novo locations, if opened, or future reimbursement changes, if any.

In commenting on the results, Keith G. Myers, Chief Executive Officer of LHC Group, said, "We are pleased with our operating results and the overall performance of our company and our team in 2010. Despite the challenges of absorbing a 5.2% reduction in Medicare reimbursement for home health services, which affected episodes of care in the last two months of 2010, we ended the year with excellent organic volume growth in new admissions of 13.1% and organic revenue growth of 12.6%. With regard to external growth, we acquired 30 locations through 14 separate transactions in 2010 and nine locations through five separate transactions in the first two months of 2011. Most importantly, our team of dedicated caregivers in communities throughout the country continues to provide the highest quality of care to the patients, families and communities we serve day in and day out. As we look ahead to the remainder of 2011 and beyond, we are well prepared and well positioned to continue increasing shareholder value by controlling cost and capitalizing on the opportunities we see ahead for both internal and external volume growth."

Conference Call

LHC Group will host a conference call on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern time to discuss its 2010 results and 2011 guidance. The toll-free number to call for this interactive teleconference is (866) 393-1608 (international callers should call 973-890-8327). A telephonic replay of the conference call will be available through midnight on Friday, March 4, 2011, by dialing (800) 642-1687 (international callers should call 706-645-9291) and entering confirmation number 34672807. A live broadcast of LHC Group's conference call will be available under the Investor Relations section of the Company's website, www.LHCGroup.com. A one-year online replay will be available approximately an hour following the conclusion of the live broadcast.

About LHC Group, Inc.

LHC Group, Inc. is a national provider of home health and hospice services, providing quality, cost-effective healthcare to patients within the comfort and privacy of their home or place of residence. LHC Group provides a comprehensive array of post-acute healthcare services through home health, hospice and private duty locations in its home-based division and long-term acute care hospitals in its facility-based division.

Certain matters discussed in this press release constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, such as statements about the Company's future financial performance and the strength of the Company's operations. Such forward-looking statements may be identified by words such as "continue," "expect," and similar expressions. Forward-looking statements involve a number of risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements, including changes in reimbursement, changes in government regulations, changes in LHC Group's relationships with referral sources, increased competition for LHC Group's services, increased competition for joint venture and acquisition candidates, changes in the interpretation of government regulations, and other risks set forth in Item 1A. Risk Factors in LHC Group's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. LHC Group undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(amounts in thousands, except share data)
(unaudited)

2010 Dec. 31,
2009

of \$9,769 and \$8,262, respectively	80,055	Patient accounts re 75,033
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of \$15,329 and \$15,030, respectively	26,862	Property, buildi: 21,361
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Common stock - \$0.01 par value: 40,000,000 shares authorized;
21,180,286 and 20,967,418 shares issued and 18,172,022 and 17,990,685 shares out

LHC GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(amounts in thousands, except share and per share data)
(unaudited)

December 31, Year Ended
December 31,

	Net service
	Cost of service
	Gros
	Provision for b
	General and administrative
	Operatin
	Interest e
	Loss on the sale of assets and
	Non-operating income
Income from continuing operations before income taxes and noncontrolling	
	Income tax
	Income from continuing op
Loss from discontinued operations, net of income tax benefit of \$7 and \$55, resp	
	Ne
	Less net income attributable to noncontrolling
	Net income attributable to LHC Gro
	Redeemable noncontrolling
Net income attributable to LHC Group, Inc.'s common stoc	
	Earnings per share - 1
Income from continuing operations attributable to LHC Gro	
Loss from discontinued operations attributable to LHC Gro	
	Net income attributable to LHC Gro
	Redeemable noncontrolling
Net income attributable to LHC Group, Inc.'s common stoc	
	Earnings per share - di
Income from continuing operations attributable to LHC Gro	
Loss from discontinued operations attributable to LHC Gro	
	Net income attributable to LHC Gro
	Redeemable noncontrolling
Net income attributable to LHC Group, Inc.'s common stoc	
	Weighted average shares outs

LHC GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

December 31,

Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided	
	Depreciation
	Stock-ba
	Loss on impairm
Changes in operating assets and liabiliti	
	Prepaid e
	Accounts paya
	Net amounts due to/fr
	Net cash provided b

Purchases of property,
Cash paid for acquisitions, primarily goodwill and intangible assets and advance

Net cash used in

Proc
Pa
Pr
Payment of
Pa
Payment of
Excess tax benefits from ves
Proceeds from e
Proceeds from empl
Purchase of additio
Noncontrollin
Net cash used

Cas

Supplemental disclosures

LHC GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
SEGMENT INFORMATION
(amounts in thousands)
(unaudited)

December 31, 2010
December 31, 2010

Year Ended

Services Facility-Based
Services Total Home-Based
Services Facility-Based
Services Total

Net service revenue
Cost of service revenue
Provision for bad debt
General and administrative expense
Operating income
Interest expense
Non-operating income
Income from continuing operations before income taxes and noncontrolling interest
Income tax expense
Income from continuing operations
Noncontrolling interest

LHC Group, Inc. Net income attributable to \$ 10,561 \$ 883 \$

Total asset

Three Months Ended

December 31, 2009
December 31, 2009

Year Ended

Services Facility-Based
Services Total Home-Based
Services Facility-Based
Services Total

Net service revenue
Cost of service revenue
Provision for bad debt

		General and administrative expense	
		Operating income	
		Interest expense	
	Non-operating income (loss), including gain on sale of asset		
	Income from continuing operations before income taxes and noncontrolling interest		
		Income tax expense	
		Income from continuing operation	
		Loss from discontinued operation	
		Noncontrolling interest	
	Net income attributable to		
LHC Group, Inc.	\$ 10,833	\$ 1,832	\$
			Total asset

LHC GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
SELECT CONSOLIDATED KEY STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL DATA
(unaudited)

Three

December 31, Year Ended
December 31,

Key Data:

Home-Based Services:

Home Health locations

Hospice locations

Acquired (1)

De novo (1)

Home Health:

Total new admissions (2)

Medicare new admissions (2)

Average weekly census

Average Medicare weekly census

Medicare completed and billed episodes

Average Medicare case mix for completed and billed Medicare episodes

Average reimbursement per completed and billed Medicare episodes

Total visits

Total Medicare visits

Average visits per completed and billed Medicare episodes

Organic growth (3):

Net revenue

Net Medicare revenue

Total new admissions

Medicare new admissions

Average weekly census

Average Medicare weekly census

Medicare completed and billed episodes

Facility-Based Services:

Long-term Acute Care Hospital locations

Acquired (1)

Patient days

Patient acuity mix

(2) 2009 admission information revised to reflect patients who converted from traditional
(3) Organic growth is calculated as the sum of same store plus de novo for the

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Image: LHC Group Logo

Source: LHC Group