

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

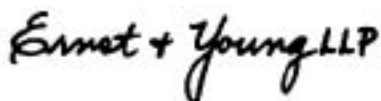
Board of Directors and Stockholders
Health Management Associates, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Health Management Associates, Inc. and subsidiaries as of September 30, 2002 and 2001, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended September 30, 2002. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Health Management Associates, Inc. and subsidiaries at September 30, 2002 and 2001 and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended September 30, 2002, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

As discussed in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company changed its method of accounting for the excess of cost over acquired net assets during the year ended September 30, 2002.

The logo for Ernst & Young LLP, featuring the company name in a stylized, handwritten-style font.

Ernst & Young LLP
Tampa, Florida
October 23, 2002