

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Christina Ott
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(608) 471-4766**Quartz Takes Part in Agreement to Expand Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Heroin and Opioid Addiction**

SAUK CITY, WISCONSIN – Quartz joined health care providers and others at the State Capitol on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, as State Representative John Nygren announced an agreement to expand access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), by removing prior authorization requirements for patients. MAT is a method used to help those addicted to opioids.

“Today, we are proud to announce that medication-assisted treatment (MAT) will be expanded across Wisconsin through the elimination of prior authorization requirements in most cases,” said Rep. Nygren. “This is a monumental change that will play a key role in ensuring individuals receive the necessary care to start their journey into recovery.”

There is no formal written agreement or law change; however, Quartz and other Wisconsin insurance companies have committed to removing the barriers to MAT.

“Quartz voluntarily partners on initiatives that seek to improve access and coverage for our members,” said Quartz Vice President of Business Development and Marketing Christina Ott. “Timely access to treatment for those addicted to opioids fully supports our efforts to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families in the communities we serve.”

Since 2014, Nygren has spearheaded legislative efforts to combat the epidemic of heroin and opioid abuse in Wisconsin and has garnered unanimous bipartisan support. The removal of barriers to MAT was accomplished as part of the Heroin, Opiate, Prevention and Education (HOPE) Agenda without passing legislation.

About Quartz

Quartz Health Solutions, Inc. (Quartz) is jointly owned by UW Health, Gundersen Health System and UnityPoint Health. The company manages four nationally recognized, provider-sponsored health insurance plans: Quartz Health Benefit Plans Corporation, Quartz Health Plan Corporation, Quartz Health Plan MN Corporation and Quartz Health Insurance Corporation. As a third-party administrator, Quartz also services self-funded health plans. Through an extensive provider network, Quartz focuses on local, community-based health care and services for more than 340,000 customers who live in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. Quartz maintains offices in Madison, Sauk City and Onalaska, Wisconsin. Quartz Health Solutions, Inc., Quartz Health Benefit Plans Corporation, Quartz Health Plan Corporation, Quartz Health Plan MN Corporation and Quartz Health Insurance Corporation are separate legal entities. For more information, visit QuartzBenefits.com.

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