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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AVMED HEALTH PLANS RECEIVES “EXCELLENT” RATING  
FROM THESTREET.COM RATINGS**

**AvMed’s financial strength deemed in the top six percent of all health plans in the U.S.**

**MIAMI, FL, September 18, 2009** – AvMed Health Plans has once again received a rating of “A” or “Excellent” from TheStreet.com Ratings, placing it among the top six percent of all health plans in the United States in terms of financial strength.

“This rating recognizes AvMed as an outstanding insurer offering excellent financial stability for its customers, vendors and employees,” said Melissa A. Gannon, Vice President of Insurance and Bank Ratings for TheStreet.com Ratings, in a letter to AvMed CEO Michael P. Gallagher.

“Please know that fewer than six percent of the nation’s HMOs and health insurers meet TheStreet.com Ratings’ criteria for exceptional financial strength, making this distinction truly one to be proud of,” Gannon added.

Each quarter, TheStreet.com Ratings evaluates the financial strength of more than 1,900 health plans in the United States. Financial strength ratings are key benchmarks used by insurance agents, brokers, human resources managers and employers to evaluate health plans on behalf of prospective members or employer groups. TheStreet.com Ratings, based in Jupiter, Florida, is nationally respected and is considered to use very rigorous standards in issuing its ratings, which gauge the health plans’ future financial solvency and its ability to withstand severe economic adversity.

AvMed is thrilled to receive this strong ratings endorsement from TheStreet.com Ratings,” Gallagher said. “As AvMed grows in all major Florida markets, it is growing highly-satisfied members – by providing members, employers, health care providers and insurance agents with exemplary personalized service of a regional plan with all of the advantages of a nationally competitive health plan. Through our intense focus on personalized service, our financial strength has grown and we’ve received this elite recognition from TheStreet.com Ratings,” Gallagher added.

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During 2008, AvMed experienced a 17% increase in membership. The 2009 results continue to show steady growth with the focus of growth in the Small Group and Mid-Market segments. Small Group business continues to have record growth, up 97% since the beginning of 2009.

Gallagher noted that AvMed is growing by broadening its provider network, improving its pricing position, and enhancing product plan designs. In addition to providing health plan solutions for small and mid-sized businesses, AvMed also is focusing on retention, strengthening relationships and service excellence.

AvMed’s Individual Health was launched in January 2009. These health plan options are ideal for people who are self-employed, students, part-time workers or early retirees. Individual coverage is offered in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Additionally, AvMed’s Self-Funded Options (ASO) offer Florida businesses another way to lower costs, while providing broad access to health care providers and flexibility to design customized health benefit plans for their employees.

#### **About AvMed Health Plans**

With more than 35 years in Florida, AvMed is one of the states oldest and largest not-for-profit health plans, and is solely focused on providing health coverage to Florida citizens and businesses. AvMed is one of only a few health plans in the United States that enjoys dual "Excellent" accreditation status for both its commercial and Medicare health plans from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the nation's top health care quality evaluator. In addition, AvMed has received an "A," or "Excellent" rating by TheStreet.com Ratings, placing it among the top six percent of all health plans in the United States in terms of financial strength. TheStreet.com Ratings evaluates the financial strength of more than 1,900 health plans across the country. For more information about AvMed, log on to [www.avmed.org](http://www.avmed.org).

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