

NEWS RELEASE

Humana Europe, Ltd
25 St George Street London W1S 1FS
humana.co.uk

HUMANA[®]

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Isabella Sharp

Humana Press Office

020 7526 3632 or 07831 307490

media@humana.co.uk

Mental health forum provides opportunity for service users to tell Lord Darzi how mental health services can be developed

LONDON, UK – May 2nd 2008 – Humana Europe was delighted to support a mental health forum held in the House of Commons yesterday which gave service users and their carers the chance to contribute to the Department of Health's NHS Next Stage Review. The event, which was hosted by the mental health charity Rethink and addressed by the Health Minister Lord Darzi, gave service users and carers a unique opportunity to input their thoughts and experiences into the review which will be published this summer.

Lord Darzi opened the event with an overview of his work and the aims of his public consultation. His vision of the future of the NHS relies increasingly on the importance of public and patient engagement with particular emphasis on mental health services, underlining the importance of service users being involved in the service development process. Chief executives and leaders in mental health from Strategic Health Authorities and Trusts also spoke at the event to outline their local plans to service users and carers in their area.

Humana believes that an integrated, person-centred approach to care should be at the forefront of NHS reform and that users of mental health services should be placed at the centre of commissioning services, through engagement with them and by providing them with the knowledge and information they need to be the decision maker in relation to their health and wellbeing.

END

Notes to editors:

1. Mental health service users were given the opportunity to tell the Health Minister Lord Darzi how they felt services could be improved ahead of the publication of his NHS Next Stage Review this summer. The event, which was hosted by the mental health charity Rethink, was supported by the Department of Health and Humana Europe and took place at the House of Commons on Thursday 1st May. For more information, please visit www.rethink.org

2. Humana Europe is a leading provider of commissioning services and support to NHS Primary Care Trusts. Humana Europe provides expert guidance, tools, and innovative solutions to support PCTs, providers, and stakeholders in delivering services that best meet the health needs of individuals and local communities. For more information please visit www.humana.co.uk

3. Humana Europe is a wholly owned subsidiary of Humana Inc, a health benefits company headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. Humana Inc has a 47 year legacy of embracing change in healthcare and is recognised as a pioneer of consumerism in the healthcare industry. For more information please visit www.humana.com