

# NHC

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

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## NHC to Pay Preferred and Common Dividends

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- National HealthCare Corporation (NYSE Amex: NHC, NHC.PRA), one of the nation's oldest long-term health care companies, announced today that it will pay a quarterly dividend of 20 cents per preferred share to shareholders of record on March 15, 2011 and payable on April 15, 2011 and a dividend of 28 cents per common share to shareholders of record on March 31, 2011 and payable on June 1, 2011.

### About NHC

NHC operates for itself and third parties 76 long-term health care centers with 9,548 beds. NHC also operates 36 homecare programs, six independent living centers and 15 assisted living communities. NHC's other services include Alzheimer's units, long-term care pharmacies, hospice, a rehabilitation services company, and providing management and accounting services to third parties. Other information about the company can be found on our web site at [www.NHCcare.com](http://www.NHCcare.com).

*Statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. NHC cautions investors that any forward-looking statements made involve risks and uncertainties and are not guarantees of future performance. All forward-looking statements represent NHC's best judgment as of the date of this release.*