

News Release



Availity and Aperture Agree to Offer Physician Credentialing Solution

JACKSONVILLE, FL – June 13, 2002 – Availity, L.L.C., the innovative joint venture between Navigy, Inc., a subsidiary of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (“BCBSF”), and HUM-e-FL, Inc., a subsidiary of Humana Inc. (NYSE: HUM), has signed an exclusive agreement with Aperture Credentialing Inc., the nation’s largest Credentials Verification Organization (CVO), to complement the alliance for statewide physician credentialing.

Health plans require physicians to complete a credentialing process for evaluation prior to acceptance into their health plan networks. Because the industry does not have a standardized process, most physicians submit the same information to multiple health plans. This results in duplication of work and increased administrative costs.

Availity is offering a solution. Through the Availity web portal, physicians will have access to a central data repository that will enable them to enter their data once and share it electronically with multiple participating health plans in the credentialing format each requires. Furthermore, physicians may print their credentialing information from the same data repository and send it to those health plans not currently participating in the credentialing alliance. This online service is estimated to launch in July 2002. Multiple health plans, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and Humana, have agreed to participate. Each health plan will continue to independently evaluate and accept physicians into their networks.

This relationship will facilitate a common data gathering process and credentialing schedule for overlapping payer network physicians. The data gathering will be deployed through the Availity web portal as another value-added service to compliment Availity’s existing eligibility and benefits, claims, authorization/referral, and prescription refill transaction services. Aperture will perform the Primary Source Verification of the data. There will be no charge to physicians to access or use this service.

“Consistent with Availity’s mission to optimize the flow of information between Florida health care professionals and health plans, this offering will result in a streamlined and cost-effective provider credentialing process,” said Julie Klapstein, Chief Executive Officer, Availity, L.L.C. “It is Availity’s and Aperture’s combined goal to include all Florida health plans in this statewide physician credentialing service.”

About Availity

Availity is an independent company that optimizes the flow of information between Florida health care professionals and health plans through a secure Internet-based exchange. The Availity portal offers a common user interface and a single login, is dedicated to being HIPAA compliant, and has proven to be fast and efficient. Free health plan transactions include eligibility and benefits inquiries, claims submissions and status inquiries, and referral and authorization submissions and inquiries. Value-added transactions include online prescription refill authorizations with multiple pharmacies, physician

credentialing, and more. For more information, including an online demonstration of the Availity portal, or to register to use Availity, please visit www.availity.com or call 1.800.AVAILITY (282.4548).

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