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Contact

David Johnson
904.470.4910
david.johnson@availity.com

Availity Receives AstraZeneca NMHCC 2003 Partnership Award

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Availity is one of three winners selected to receive the 2003 AstraZeneca-National Managed Health Care Congress (NMHCC) Partnership Award. Now in its 11th year, the Annual Partnership Awards have become the industry's premier program for recognizing the nation's most successful and unique partnerships that exist within the health care industry, providing innovative ways of controlling spiraling health care costs while improving access and overall care. This award is presented annually to health care leaders and organizations that, in the judgment of their peers, have addressed quality, access, and efficiency of health care delivery with cooperation and collaboration. The Partnership Awards recognize programs that show demonstrable research or needs analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Availity, L.L.C. is an independent company formed as a joint venture between Navigy, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. (BCBSF), an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, and HUM-e-FL, Inc., a subsidiary of Humana Inc. (NYSE: HUM). Since its inception in February of 2001, the company has remained true to its mission of removing administrative inefficiencies, reducing costs, and improving the patient experience in the Florida health care system. By leveraging the Internet to provide a neutral, secure, HIPAA-compliant transaction exchange at no cost to physicians, hospitals, and other health care professionals, Availity has streamlined administrative workflow and dramatically improved communication between health care stakeholders, including providers, payers, and pharmacies.

Availity's successes to date are a testament to its user-friendly product design and collaborative team. Having generally launched the Availity Gateway in February of 2002, the solution has been adopted by more than 6,200 physician offices and all 208 hospitals in the state of Florida. With an annual run rate of more than 14 million web transactions per year, Availity has been identified by some industry analysts as being the fastest organically grown eHealth company in history. This rapid growth has not been at the expense of compromised customer service, however. On a recent two-part customer survey conducted by Porter Research, Availity scored an average of 8.1, on a nine-point scale, in all categories.

"This unique partnership between two long-time competitors demonstrates a true commitment to improving the delivery of health care," states Beth George, Vice President of Strategic Development for the NMHCC. "Availity was selected among several companies across the nation due to its innovative solution to improve the efficiency, quality, and access to health care information."

On March 11 at the 15th Annual NMHCC conference in Washington, DC, individually engraved awards will be presented to Availity, BCBSF, and Humana during a ceremony directly prior to the keynote presentation with U.S. Surgeon General Richard Cardoma. In addition to a featured case study presentation at the NMHCC conference, an article in a published compendium, and a national press conference at the event, Availity has been given the opportunity to select two charities to each receive a grant in the amount of \$2,500. The Healing Place in Louisville, Kentucky, www.thehealingplace.org, and Angel Flight Southeast in Leesburg, Florida, www.angelflightse.org, were selected by the winning trio because of their selfless dedication to advancing the quality and efficiency of patient care.

This monumental accomplishment ranks Availity among an elite group of companies that have formed strategic partnerships to positively impact health care in the United States. Previous award recipients include Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Missouri, a WellPoint Company, and Mercy Medical Group; Humana Military Healthcare Services Region IV and Department of Defense and Health Services Region IV; Sara Lee Corporation and Partners National Health Plans of North Carolina Inc.; Pepsico, VPA, Inc., Aetna U.S. Health Care, Managed Network Inc., and Health International; and Marriott Corporation and Prudential Insurance Company.

By optimizing information flow, Availity truly enables physicians and other health care professionals to focus on their patients instead of their paperwork. "The concerted efforts of a diverse and dedicated team over the past two years have culminated into Availity's success," stated Julie Klapstein, CEO of Availity. "We're honored to receive this award and the national recognition that it offers."

About Availity

Availity is an independent company that optimizes the flow of information between Florida health care providers, health plans, and other health care stakeholders through a secure Internet-based exchange. The Availity Gateway supports both real-time web and batch electronic data interchange (EDI) transactions, is committed to complying with HIPAA regulations, and has proven to be fast and efficient. Availity health plan transactions are free to providers and include eligibility and benefits inquiries, authorization and referral submissions and inquiries, and claims submissions and status inquiries. Value-added services include access to an online credentialing data repository, also free to providers, as well as online prescription refill authorizations supported by more than 80% of Florida pharmacies. For more information, including an online demonstration of the Availity Gateway, or to register to use Availity, please visit www.availity.com or call 1.800.AVAILITY (282.4548).

About The National Managed Health Care Congress (NMHCC)

The National Managed Health Care Congress (NMHCC) is the largest managed health care event, attracting more than 5,000 health care professionals annually. The 2003 educational conference, featuring more than 70 educational sessions, four keynote presentations, eight independent tracks and 12 workshops led by the industry's top speakers, addresses the latest issues and trends in managed health care. Specialized program tracks include Health Plan Executives, Hospital and Health System Executives, Case Management/ACCM Annual Meeting, Disease Management, Pharmacy, Complementary Health, Financial and Risk Management and Emerging Technology. The Expo Hall, with more than 250 exhibitors, connects managed health care professionals with the industry's top suppliers showcasing the latest technologies, products and services. Visit the NMHCC website, www.nmhcc.com, for complete program details.

About AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca (NYSE: AZN) is a major international health care business engaged in the research, development, manufacture and marketing of ethical (prescription) pharmaceuticals and the supply of health care services. It is one of the top five pharmaceutical companies in the world with health care sales of more than \$16.4 billion and leading positions in sales of gastrointestinal, oncology, anesthesia (including pain management), cardiovascular, central nervous system (CNS) and respiratory products. In the United States, AstraZeneca is an \$8.7 billion health care business with more than 10,000 employees. For more information about AstraZeneca, please visit www.astrazeneca-us.com.