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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **PROVIDER ADVANTAGE AWARDED CONTRACT TO PROVIDE REAL-TIME INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION FOR ALTRU HEALTH SYSTEM**

January 26, 2005 – Beaverton, OR – Provider Advantage NW, Inc., a national provider of automated, integrated real-time healthcare information software, announced today that Altru Health System has selected *VeriLink* to verify healthcare insurance eligibility.

This agreement provides Altru Health System access to real-time patient eligibility and benefit information, allowing easy identification of what the patient's portion will be for services rendered. Altru Health System, an integrated health system located on a 90-acre campus in Grand Forks, North Dakota, serves 200,000 residents in NE North Dakota and NW Minnesota and employs over 3,000 health professionals.

Using Provider Advantage's automated, integrated, real-time eligibility verification service, *VeriLink*, Altru Health System will have access to Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial health plan insurance data, to confirm patients' eligibility at the point of service and to determine financial responsibility before the patient is admitted. This will dramatically improve cash flow operations, reduce exposure to uncompensated care, and facilitate the collection of co-pays and deductibles at the time of service, without adding additional work to the registration staff. In addition, verifying eligibility through *VeriLink* will lower administrative costs and increase patient satisfaction.

Provider Advantage's President, Ted Tomkins shared his enthusiasm for the addition of Altru Health System to Provider Advantage's growing customer base. "It is encouraging to see leading organizations like Altru Health System with their combined medical center and clinic operations recognizing the need to fully automate and integrate insurance eligibility verification at the point-of-service. We are confident that by using *VeriLink* Altru Health System will obtain complete and accurate patient insurance, demographic and financial information before the service is rendered and will be able to optimize reimbursement. We welcome Altru Health System into the Provider Advantage family."

“We selected Provider Advantage as our real-time, automated, integrated eligibility verification vendor because of their reputation for exemplary product support, their skill in establishing collegial working relationships with their clients, their superior technical leadership, and the product’s ability to integrate seamlessly with Affinity HIS,” said Sue Olson, Supervisor, Patient Accounts Representatives. “Provider Advantage’s other customers encouraged our decision based on Provider Advantage’s support of VeriLink and VeriLink’s ability to be tailored to our business requirements. We believe VeriLink will have significant impact on our goal to streamline the registration process, increase up-front collections and eliminate redundancy when checking for eligibility.”

### **About Provider Advantage**

Since 1991, Provider Advantage NW, Inc. has been providing innovative products and services to access real time healthcare data. Provider Advantage develops, markets, installs, and supports electronic data interchange (EDI) technologies that allow organizations to obtain, utilize, and manage insurance data to generate operational efficiencies and improve cash flow. Conforming to the needs of each customer, Provider Advantage’s products and services enable organizations to optimize revenues by establishing responsibility for healthcare services. For more information, contact Provider Advantage NW at (800) 203-5465 or visit [www.provider-advantage.com](http://www.provider-advantage.com).

### **About Altru Health System**

Altru Health System is an award-winning health system with headquarters on a 90-acre medical campus in Grand Forks. It was created July 1, 1997, when the Grand Forks Clinic and United Health Services integrated. At Altru Health System, over 3,400 employees, 220 physicians, and 400 volunteers work as a team for the benefit of each patient.

Altru provides care from seven locations in Grand Forks and 13 regional clinics to serve approximately 224,000 residents of northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Facilities include a 232-bed acute care hospital, a 34-bed rehabilitation facility, a free-standing cancer center, and a 172-unit retirement living facility.