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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWTON MEDICAL CENTER SELECTS PROVIDER ADVANTAGE'S VERILINK FOR INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION AND REMITLINK FOR AUTOMATED POSTING OF HEALTH PLAN REMITTANCE ADVICES

Beaverton, OR (PRWEB) January 19, 2005 -- Provider Advantage NW, Inc., a national provider of automated, integrated real-time healthcare information software, announced today that Newton Medical Center has selected *VeriLink* to verify healthcare insurance eligibility and *RemitLink* for automated posting of health plan remittance advices.

This agreement provides Newton Medical Center access to real-time patient eligibility and benefit information, allowing easy identification of what the patient's portion will be for services rendered. In addition, Newton Medical Center will use *RemitLink*, creating a fully automated, electronic remittance posting service that will seamlessly integrate with their host system, reducing labor costs and posting errors. Newton Medical Center is an 83-bed, not-for-profit facility located in Kansas, providing health care services to residents of Harvey and surrounding counties.

Using Provider Advantage's automated, integrated, real-time eligibility verification service, *VeriLink*, Newton Medical Center 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.

"We are proud to have Newton Medical Center as our customer," said Ted Tomkins, President of Provider Advantage. "Using *VeriLink* to immediately verify patient information at the point-of-service will increase up-front collections and reduce the amount of work and cost in the business office to collect from the patient or health plan. This is accomplished with little additional work by the registration staff. In addition,

Newton's efforts to reduce the cost of posting remittance advice data from Health Plans will enable them to better utilize staff for patient care."

"We are so excited to have real-time benefit information for our patients and their families for peace of mind while dealing with health issues," Said Melanie Hanna, Director of Patient Accounts for Newton Medical Center. "Surprise and misinformation are challenging to families. Point-of-service collection is not only good for the patient, it is good for the hospital's bottom line."

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.

About Newton Medical Center

Formed in 1987, with the merger of two hospitals, Newton Medical Center has evolved from an established tradition of excellence. Newton Medical Center is an 83-bed, not-for-profit facility dedicated to providing health care services to residents of Harvey and surrounding counties, regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion or ability to pay.

Offering a wide variety of services and professional specialties, the medical center is conveniently located off I-135 in south Newton, accessible to Harvey and Sedgwick counties. For more information contact Newton Medical Center at 316.283.2700 or www.newtonmedicalcenter.com.