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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PROVIDER ADVANTAGE NW AND SEARCHAMERICA ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP**

May 24, 2004 – Beaverton, OR – Provider Advantage NW, Inc., a national provider of automated, integrated real-time healthcare information, announced today a partnership with SearchAmerica, Inc.

By enabling healthcare providers to access real-time patient eligibility and benefit information, providers can more easily identify what the patient's portion will be for services rendered. SearchAmerica, headquartered in Minneapolis, MN, allows healthcare organizations to improve their financial performance by validating patient demographic data and assessing patient financial risk. The combination of these automated and integrated solutions improves healthcare providers' ability to determine up front the patient's financial responsibility for services rendered and the patient's ability to pay. This can dramatically improve cash flow operations, reduce exposure to uncompensated care, and facilitate the collection of co-pays and deductibles at the time of service. With this partnership, Provider Advantage will integrate Search America services, allowing customers to automatically access and capture accurate and up-to-date patient demographic information and post it back to their registration systems.

“We are proud to have been chosen as a business partner by SearchAmerica,” said Ted Tomkins, President of Provider Advantage. “Their efforts to provide comprehensive patient demographics and financial risk assessment and to present the most useful data at the point of service parallels Provider Advantage's focus. Having this relationship is one more step toward helping healthcare providers easily identify how they will be reimbursed for the services they provide.”

In addition, Search America customers will receive Provider Advantage's automated, integrated real-time eligibility verification service, providing fast, reliable, high-quality eligibility data. By providing real-time access to Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial health plan insurance data to confirm patients' eligibility at the point-of-service, providers obtain the information they need to be reimbursed quickly and easily.

“Our partnership allows healthcare organizations to understand who is responsible for the payment of services rendered and how payment will be made,” said Daniel Johnson, President and CEO of SearchAmerica. “With the increasing number of uninsured patients, and rising deductible and co-pay amounts, hospitals are increasingly concerned with finding ways to collect money from patients upfront. By validating the demographic information and making a financial risk analysis for each patient, hospitals now have a way to increase their cash flow and reduce their write-offs due to bad debt.”

### **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 SearchAmerica**

SearchAmerica is the recognized leader in improving registration integrity, reducing bad debt and assessing discounts for self-pay/uninsured by verifying patient demographic data and providing payment prediction using integrated technology for the healthcare industry. For more information, contact SearchAmerica at (763) 416-1000 or visit [www.searchamerica.com](http://www.searchamerica.com)