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News Release

August 18, 2008

Availity and Health Care Service Corporation Announce Completion of National Provider Platform Conversion

Migration of THIN Expands Access to Real-Time Information to Support Health Plan Member-Physician Relationship

JACKSONVILLE, FL and CHICAGO, IL – Availity, L.L.C., a national leader in health information exchange, and Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), which operates the Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in Illinois, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, announced today the completed migration of more than 11,000 medical practices and hospitals from The Health Information Network (THIN) platform to the Availity platform.

The effort involved successfully testing and moving electronic transactions for more than 11,000 health care provider sites, 450 vendors, 40 clearinghouses, and more than 200 health plans and other health claim systems across the nation. The transition empowers providers with a secure, real-time web portal for health information exchange, fostering improved communication and decision-making before, during, and after the patient visit.

“The completion of the THIN migration marks the beginning of a new chapter for health information exchange in our core regions,” said Mary Anne Orenchuk, Vice President of Professional Services for Availity. “We are eager to continue to serve the growing needs of our customers in all markets, while enhancing our information exchange capabilities across the health care spectrum.”

“As Health Care Service Corporation continues to pursue its strategy of reducing our members’ health care costs by helping to improve their health, the work we’re doing with Availity can significantly support the relationship between our members and their health care providers, so that health information can more easily be used to prevent and treat illness, and can help make the delivery of care less costly,” said Paul Handel, MD, HCSC’s Chief Medical Officer.

The migration follows a 2006 collaboration between HCSC, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF), and Humana, to integrate the assets of THIN with those of Availity. The joint venture between these health plans has facilitated an increase in the development of real-time health care transactions – reconciling the insurer’s and patient’s share of payment before the patient leaves the office. This collaboration has also expanded the availability and flow of information, as more providers and health care constituents capitalize on real-time electronic transactions via Availity’s secure web portal. Today, Availity is one of the nation’s largest EDI clearinghouses as well as one of the most advanced health information exchanges in the country.

“We want to thank Availity for making our collections easier by providing our facility with faster claims status and accurate patient eligibility and benefits,” said Laura Gonzales, El Paso Specialty Hospital, El Paso, Texas. “Keep up the outstanding work!”

“We absolutely love Availity,” said Terri McBride, Deerbrook Family Clinic, Humble, Texas. “It saves us time when verifying eligibility and benefits and seeking authorizations and referrals. It has become so easy to do all of these things since incorporating Availity into our daily work schedule. We cannot thank you enough!”

The Availity Health Information Network harnesses the power of the Internet to assist health care professionals in tangible and timesaving ways. Availity combines dynamic innovation in health information exchange with an in-depth understanding of the health care industry, and builds collaborative relationships that ultimately benefit all health care stakeholders, including health care professionals, health plans, and patients. This approach to health care delivery enables health care constituents to focus on their patients instead of their paperwork, streamlining workflow, reducing costs, and ultimately improving the patient experience in all of the markets it serves.

About Availity, L.L.C. – Patients. Not Paperwork.®

Availity optimizes the flow of information between health care professionals, health plans, and other health care stakeholders through a secure internet-based exchange. The Availity Health Information Network encompasses administrative, financial, and clinical services, supports both real-time and batch transactions via the web, business to business (B2B), and electronic data interchange (EDI). Availity is the recipient of several national and regional awards, including Consumer Directed Healthcare, A.S.A.P. Alliance Innovation, eHealthcare Leadership, Northeast Florida Excellence in IT Leadership, E-Fusion, Emerging Technologies and Healthcare Innovations for Excellence (TETHIE), and AstraZeneca-NMHCC Partnership. For more information, including an online demonstration, please visit www.availity.com.

About HCSC

Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, is the largest customer-owned health insurer in the United States and the fourth largest health insurer in the country overall, with 12.4 million members in its Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in Illinois, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The company is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. HCSC also has a rating of AA- (Very Strong) from Standard and Poor's, Aa3 (Excellent) from Moody's, and A+ (Superior) from A.M. Best Company.