

INTEGRA Administrative Group Selects the Choice Care Card As Consumer-Driven Health Care Option for Health Insurance Clients

January 15, 2003

Montpelier, VT & Providence, RI - January 15, 2003 -The Choice Care Card™ announced that INTEGRA Administrative Group, Inc., an insurance brokerage and Third Party Administrator (TPA) of self-insured and flex plans based in Seaford, Delaware, will offer The Choice Care Card™ as a preferred consumer driven health care option to its current and potential business clients. INTEGRA will also make The Choice Care Card™ marketing package available to insurance brokers who affiliate with INTEGRA.

David Smith, President of INTEGRA, said, "This is a product endorsed by the federal government, for which the time is right for both self-funded and fully insured employers to save health care dollars." Fully insured employers are a group that is really suffering from the increase in health care costs but is without many options, he said. He also indicated that every INTEGRA client who has reviewed the program has had a positive response and he expects many employers to choose this option in 2003.

Employees use The Choice Care Card, a MasterCard® debit card, to pay for health services at any pharmacy, medical office or hospital. The Card can be used for co-pays and deductibles for services and prescriptions included in the employer health plan. The Card may also be used for alternative therapies, medical equipment and other treatments not included in the plan, opening up new health choices for employees.

Expenses are debited against the employee's personal reimbursement account, which is funded at a pre-determined level by the employer. If the employee's expenses exceed the personal account balance, the employer-sponsored health plan will cover expenses after a deductible. Unused personal account balances may be carried over to subsequent years, providing an incentive to employees to use services wisely. This is unlike Section 125 cafeteria plans that require a forfeiture of any remaining account balance not used before the end of the plan year.

Smith said, "Employers are enthused about the Choice Care Card getting their employee directly involved in each health care purchase. When employees use the Card to pay for health care with money from their own accounts and see how their own account balance is affected, they become a real consumer of health care. They ask more questions and become savvy about the cost and value of health care. We need everyone involved in seeing the health care dollar flow in and out if we are going to get control over costs."

As new and renewing customers set up their insured or self-insured health plans with INTEGRA, they will be able to easily integrate the Choice Care Card option for employees. These employers will join many other small and medium-sized companies throughout the northeast U. S. that will offer The Choice Care Card

benefit starting January 1, 2003. "INTEGRA's customers will save money on premiums immediately while giving their employees more choice," said Jay Hunter, one of the founders and creators of The Choice Care Card.

"This is the alternative to managed care that employers and employees have been looking for." Smith said, "I've been watching the benefit news journals and one of the hottest topics discussed has been employee directed health care or employee choice programs. We were in the process of developing a consumer driven health plan ourselves. But when I looked at the Choice Care Card and the care with which it had been developed, I became excited about offering it as part of INTEGRA's product line. Our entire staff is enthusiastic about our decision to market the Choice Care Card to any employer who has a group health plan with run-away medical costs."

The Choice Care Card, Inc. The Choice Care Card™ is an employer-issued MasterCard® debit card, pre-funded to cover out-of-pocket health expenses incurred by employees and their dependents. The Choice Care Card™ works with any insurance policy or self-insured plan, and allows an employer to fund a less expensive, higher-deductible or higher co-pay plan, and at the same time addresses the employee's need for both first dollar and catastrophic coverage. Choice Care Card™ has offices in Montpelier, VT and Providence, RI. (<https://www.choicecarecard.com>)

INTEGRA Administrative Group, Inc. INTEGRA Administrative Group, Inc. is a third party administrator providing services to clients with a minimum size of 25 employees and larger. They specialize in the administration of employer self-funded products including Health, Dental, Vision and Short-Term Disability as well as administration of complimentary fully-insured products such as Life, AD&D, Short Term and Long Term Disability, Dental and Vision plans. INTEGRA has a dedicated unit that researches and provides nationwide access to preferred provider networks for its self-funded health care clients. INTEGRA also provides a dedicated unit and website for the administration of Section 125 ("flex") plans. Located in Seaford, Delaware, INTEGRA (formerly Farnell & Smith, Inc.) has served clients since 1972. INTEGRA processed and paid in excess of \$22 million in employee benefits during 2002. (<http://www.integratpa.com/>)