



Asuris Northwest Health

A Regence Affiliate

For immediate release

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Asuris Northwest Health Looks to Expand Medicare Advantage Service Areas in 2008 *Company also plans to continue serving current markets; all subject to CMS approval*

(Spokane, WA) – Asuris Northwest Health announced today that it plans to expand its Medicare Advantage service areas in 2008, subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The company plans to continue serving all of its current MedAdvantage markets, also subject to approval from the CMS.

MedAdvantage is a PPO that Asuris offers as part of the federal Medicare Advantage program. The company offers Medicare beneficiaries a suite of options, including Medicare Supplement, MedAdvantage PPO (with or without Part D) and stand alone Part D prescription plans. The MedAdvantage PPO is one of the most popular products in this portfolio. This product will be sold in the Asuris service area under the new name of TruAdvantage beginning October 2007. This change applies to coverage that takes effect on or after January 1, 2008.

Asuris now offers MedAdvantage plans in Spokane County. Pending final approval from the CMS, the company will expand availability of MedAdvantage to six more counties, including Benton, Ferry, Franklin, Kittitas, Stevens and Whitman.

Asuris' decision to expand its service area for MedAdvantage represents the company's continued commitment to serving the needs of Medicare beneficiaries with products and services that meet their needs for choice, affordability and access.

“We are very excited about the opportunity to expand our service areas for 2008. MedAdvantage is popular with many of our members, who appreciate the value it provides in return for their health care dollar. We believe making MedAdvantage available to more of our Medicare beneficiaries is the best way to ensure that our members have access to the best coverage possible,” said Cary Badger, vice president of Market Development for Asuris.

About Asuris Northwest Health

Based in Spokane, Asuris Northwest Health offers a full range of health care coverage options, including dental and vision coverage, for Eastern Washington employers and individuals. Asuris also offers Medicare supplemental plans and Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, and provides member access to more than 19,000 health care providers. For more information, visit

the company's Web site at www.asuris.com. Asuris Northwest Health, a not-for-profit health plan, is a subsidiary of Regence BlueShield, a leading health plan in Washington.

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