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Health Alliance Medical Plans, Inc. Selects National Processing Company for Complete Electronic Settlement Solution; NPC's AcceleratedPay(SM) to Provide Automation of Payment and Settlement Functions.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- National Processing Company (NPC(R)), a leading provider of merchant credit card processing and a wholly owned subsidiary of National Processing, Inc. , announced today the signing of a multi-year agreement with Health Alliance Medical Plans, Inc. to provide electronic payment settlement and remittance.

For over 20 years, Health Alliance has offered quality health coverage. Founded by physicians in 1980, Health Alliance is the largest managed care organization based in downstate Illinois. Health Alliance underwrites and administers a full range of managed care products on a fully insured or self- funded basis.

Health Alliance will utilize NPC's global payment platform, AcceleratedPay(SM), for electronic settlement of provider payments. AcceleratedPay will act as a settlement clearinghouse and a payment aggregator for Health Alliance's electronic payments to physicians, hospitals and other healthcare providers. AcceleratedPay will not only enable Health Alliance to offer its healthcare providers an electronic-based system for payment settlement, but additionally, will facilitate a move to Internet reporting tools and solutions. The resulting transition, from paper-based to electronic settlement and remittance, will result in significant savings for both Health Alliance and its providers.

"NPC's industry experience, commitment to customer excellence and innovative payment solutions made them an obvious choice," stated Gordon Salm, chief financial officer for Health Alliance Medical Plans, Inc.

"AcceleratedPay delivers a state-of-the-art solution for efficient and cost- effective electronic settlement of provider payments."

Senior Vice President John T. McRae II, of NPC's Payment Services division said "NPC is delighted that Health Alliance has entrusted its settlement and remittance business to us. We look forward to a long and productive relationship with Health Alliance. NPC is dedicated to providing a superior solution and service."

About Health Alliance Medical Plans, Inc.

For over 20 years, Health Alliance has offered quality health coverage. Founded by physicians in 1980, Health Alliance is the largest managed care organization based in downstate Illinois. Health Alliance underwrites and administers a full range of managed care products on a fully insured or self- funded basis. More information regarding Health Alliance Medical Plans, Inc. is available via the Internet at <http://www.healthalliance.org/> .

About National Processing, Inc.

National Processing, Inc. through its wholly owned operating subsidiary, National Processing Company (NPC(R)) is a leading provider of merchant credit card processing. National Processing is 86 percent owned by National City Corporation (www.nationalcity.com), a Cleveland based \$96 billion financial holding company. NPC supports over 600,000 merchant locations, representing nearly one out of every five Visa(R) and

MasterCard(R) transactions processed nationally. NPC's card processing solutions offer superior levels of service and performance and assist merchants in lowering their total cost of card acceptance through our world-class people, technology and service. Additional information regarding National Processing can be obtained at www.npc.net.

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