

National Processing Company to Support HealthLink Electronic Payment Processing

Press Release

July 1, 2003

Louisville, Ky., July 1, 2003 – National Processing Company, LLC. (NPC®), a leading provider of payment settlement services and a wholly owned subsidiary of National Processing, Inc. (NYSE: NAP), announced today a multi-year agreement with HealthLink®, Inc., a WellPoint company, to provide enhanced services for the business unit's existing payment settlement process. HealthLink will use NPC's payment platform HealthePaySM to provide enhanced electronic payment capabilities, payment consolidation and electronic remittance advice reporting to their providers, hospitals and other healthcare constituents.

HealthLink launched HealthePay with National Capital PPO (NCPPO) during the second quarter of 2003. This relationship leverages NPC's industry expertise and core competencies as a payment settlement clearinghouse and as a leading provider of Internet Remittance Advice Reporting.

NPC Senior Vice President John T. McRae II, of NPC's Payment Services division stated, "NPC is committed to provide HealthLink superior services designed to maximize cash management, drive cost reductions and meet HIPAA requirements as they relate to the payment settlement process."

About National Processing, Inc.

National Processing, Inc. through its wholly owned operating subsidiary, National Processing Company, LLC (NPC®) is a leading provider of merchant credit and debit card processing, and payment settlement solutions. National Processing is 85 percent owned by National City Corporation (NYSE: NCC) (www.NationalCity.com), one of the nation's largest financial holding companies. NPC's payment settlement solutions offer superior levels of service and performance and assist organizations in streamlining and lowering the cost associated with the financial settlement process. Additional information regarding National Processing can be obtained at www.npc.net.

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