



Contact:

Anna Scarlett
(503) 228-6016 – office
(503) 951-7314 – cell

Asuris Introduces Two New Plans Designed Especially for Small to Mid-Size Companies

Embark and Vantage bridge the gap between traditional and consumer-directed plans with simplified options that allow employees to self-manage their benefits

(Spokane) – Amid rising health care costs, many smaller employers have been torn between trimming their health benefits or passing the costs to employees in the form of increased deductibles and co-insurance. This is why Asuris has introduced Embark and Vantage, which represent a completely new type of health care benefit known as self-managed plans.

Embark and Vantage give employers and their employees flexibility, choice and control over their benefits, with features that include direct access to their choice of providers, customized wellness programs and online cost accumulator tools that allow them to keep track of their health care spending. On average, these plans offer up to a four percent better value for similar benefits in traditional plans, depending on the size of the company and the benefit options they select. Embark and Vantage are designed for small to mid-size companies with two to 99 employees.

“Embark and Vantage mark a significant milestone for smaller group employers, who often must pass health care costs to their employees in the form of increased deductibles and co-insurance. The unique benefit designs of these plans offer affordable benefits that don’t sacrifice the freedom and choice employees want,” said Cary Badger, vice president of Market Development for Asuris. “For the first time, employees will be able

to self-manage their benefits in a way that will directly impact their health care costs while still enjoying the benefit of a comprehensive benefit plan.”

A unique advantage of Embark is that it provides upfront preventive benefits before an employee has to meet his or her deductible. Vantage simplifies coverage with a single coinsurance level that applies to all categories of providers, including physicians, hospitals, labs and clinics. Both plans include a 24-7 nurseline, maternity management program and Asuris health coaches, who help members develop their own personal health development plan and provide support to help members meet their health goals. Members on Asuris’s self-managed plans also have access to myasuris.com, where they can view claims information and use a new cost accumulator tool to help manage their health care spending. For more information on Asuris’s self-managed plans and product features, go to www.selfmanagedplans.com.

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 20,000 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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