



Connection Dental® Network Receives URAC Health Network Version 7.1 Accreditation

Lee's Summit, MO (September 26, 2013) – Government Employees Health Association's Connection Dental® Network announced today that it has been awarded Health Network, Version 7.1 from URAC, a Washington, DC-based health care accrediting organization that establishes quality standards for the health care industry. The Health Network Standards cover three areas: network management, credentialing and consumer protection.

“Connection Dental Network has been accredited for Health Network since 2005 and recently was awarded reaccreditation for Health Network with credentialing through 2016,” said Dianna Sleyster, Manager of Policy and Compliance at GEHA. She added that GEHA chose to pursue URAC accreditation because the standards provide a mark of distinction for health care organizations to demonstrate their commitment to quality and accountability.



Connection Dental Network is owned and operated by Government Employees Health Association (GEHA). PPO USA, a GEHA wholly-owned subsidiary, markets the dental network outside of the federal market. PPO USA has leveraged the power of the Connection Dental Network to provide a national network of dentists to third party administrators (TPA), brokers, consultants, insurance companies, self-insured employer groups, Taft-Hartley Trust Funds, and regional dental plans. The Connection Dental Network allows clients the flexibility to design the network to maximize customer expectations. The network can serve as a stand-alone or layered dental PPO, and can be incorporated into an existing indemnity to manage costs with little or no disruption to employer groups.

“By applying for and receiving Health Network, Version 7.1, GEHA has demonstrated a commitment to quality health care,” said URAC Chief Operating Officer William Vandervennet. “Quality health care is crucial to our nation's welfare and it is important to have organizations that are willing to measure themselves against national standards.”

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The Health Network Standards apply to health networks such as preferred provider organizations (PPOs) and specialty networks. These standards encourage open-panel networks to become more integrated in their operations with a strong emphasis on quality assurance and improvement.

URAC, an independent, nonprofit organization, is a leader in promoting health care quality through accreditation and certification programs. URAC's standards keep pace with the rapid changes in the health care system, and provide a mark of distinction for health care organizations to demonstrate their commitment to quality and accountability. Through its broad-based governance structure and an inclusive standards development process, URAC ensures that all stakeholders are represented in setting meaningful standards for the health care industry. For more information, visit www.urac.org.

About PPO USA: PPO USA was formed in 1997 to market access to the Connection Dental® Network, Connection Vision® powered by EyeMed, and Connection Hearing® by HearPo. These customized solutions are offered to lower health care costs and improve accessibility for clients such as third-party administrators, insurance companies, unions, consultants, brokers, and self-insured employer groups. What started as a two person team utilizing grassroots efforts to grow PPO USA and to gain industry insight, has now become one of the nation's leading dental cost management companies. Today, PPO USA's team utilizes and shares collectively more than 100 years of industry expertise to provide products, industry advice, news, and tools to help clients retain and grow business.

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