



VHA West Coast Region Partners with Avantas for Healthcare Enterprise Labor Management Solution

Leading Group Purchasing Organization to Offer Avantas Consulting Services and Technology to Revamp Labor Management Practices, Optimize Operating Budgets

LAS VEGAS – June 26, 2012 (HFMA ANI Booth # 1661) – Avantas, a leading provider of strategic labor management technology, services and strategies for the healthcare industry, today announced that the West Coast Regional office of VHA, Inc. has signed an official Program Partnership for Consulting and Smart Square[®], Avantas' proprietary labor management software.

As a result of this partnership, VHA West Coast's 100+ member hospitals will have access to Avantas' Healthcare Enterprise Labor Management (HELM[™]) methodology. This proven set of strategies combines the science of workforce planning, demand forecasting as well as operational best practices, and embeds them into a robust and customizable set of scheduling and staffing tools (Smart Square) that interface with third party systems including EMR, Time & Attendance, Payroll and HRIS.

"We believe Avantas' approach to the better deployment of labor, using advanced technology and innovative planning, can be a tremendous asset to our members' pursuit of efficiency in labor management," said Richard Barnett, Executive Officer, VHA West Coast Region.

Avantas' HELM approach and related solutions are currently being utilized in more than 200 hospitals and clinics across the country; including stand-alone hospitals, multi-hospital metropolitan systems and multi-hospital regional systems. By leveraging these unique client experiences, Avantas is able to provide organizations with the expertise to help them rise above departmental silos and implement a consistent and effective way to integrate labor across the enterprise, with exceptional savings for clients.

"We are thrilled to partner with the VHA West Coast," said Chris Fox, Senior Vice President of Growth and Innovation, Avantas. "The fact that we are the only official labor management solution approved by this respected regional VHA office is real validation of the value they see in our unique approach to managing labor costs."

HELM describes a combination of best practices and proven technologies designed to work together to optimize the efficiency, productivity and cost-effectiveness of the workforce across the healthcare enterprise. Combining principals of cross-departmental resource sharing, predictive modeling of projected patient census, self-scheduling and best practices for open shift management, the HELM

model has been proven to generate rapid ROI for organizations and to dramatically reduce the size of healthcare's largest cost center.

To learn more about Avantas and its industry-leading labor management solution and services, please visit booth # 1661 at HFMA's 2012 Annual National Institute at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Convention Center in Las Vegas June 25 & 26.

About VHA

VHA Inc., based in Irving, Texas, is a national network of not-for-profit health care organizations that work together to drive maximum savings in the supply chain arena, set new levels of clinical performance, and identify and implement best practices to improve operational efficiency and clinical outcomes. Since 1977, VHA has leveraged its expertise in analytics, contracting, consulting and networks to help members achieve their operational, clinical and financial objectives. In 2010, VHA delivered record savings and value of \$1.7 billion to members. VHA serves more than 1,350 hospitals and more than 72,000 non-acute care providers nationwide, coordinating delivery of its programs and services through its 16 regional offices. VHA has been ranked as one of the best places to work in healthcare by *Modern Healthcare* since the publication introduced this list in 2008.

About Avantas

Avantas is an Omaha, Neb.-based company devoted to serving the healthcare industry. Its proprietary scheduling and productivity solution, Smart Square[®], is the only comprehensive labor management platform developed *by* healthcare professionals *for* healthcare professionals. Additionally, its consultation services provide its clients tailored best practice labor management strategies designed to drive substantial and sustaining cost and quality improvements across the enterprise. For more information, please visit the Avantas website at www.Avantas.biz.

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