



NATIONAL ELECTRONIC ATTACHMENT, INC.

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Principal Financial Group Signs Agreement with National Electronic Attachment to Begin Receiving Electronic Healthcare Attachments via *FastAttach*<sup>™</sup>**

Atlanta, Georgia – National Electronic Attachment, Inc. (NEA) announced today that they have signed an Agreement with the Principal Financial Group<sup>®</sup> of Des Moines, IA. The agreement will allow The Principal<sup>®</sup> to accept healthcare attachments for electronically submitted healthcare claims. The attachments will be transmitted to NEA’s web site from healthcare providers, using NEA’s *FastAttach*<sup>™</sup> system.

*FastAttach*<sup>™</sup> enables healthcare offices to transmit healthcare attachments (x-rays, perio charts, intra-oral pictures, narratives and EOB’s), via the Internet, to NEA’s repository where The Principal is able to view them in support of the electronic claim adjudication process. For healthcare offices, *FastAttach*<sup>™</sup> accelerates claim processing and eliminates the need and cost to duplicate and mail x-rays and other necessary attachments.

“We are very excited about offering this technology to providers. This is just another way in which The Principal is working to reduce administrative complexity and costs for providers and our policyholders,” said Gary Cain, senior vice president of the Life & Health Division for the Principal Financial Group. “This is a ‘win-win’ enhancement for both The Principal and dental providers. We anticipate this arrangement will increase our electronic claim volume, reduce costs, and improve the information needed for claim accuracy and turnaround time. The providers benefit through streamlined claim submission processing, detailed submission documentation and reductions in their administrative costs.”

“We are very glad that The Principal chose NEA as their vendor for electronic attachments and we look forward to the opportunity to register their providers,” stated Thomas Hughes, CEO of NEA. “NEA is very knowledgeable about The Principal, and we are pleased to be able to bring them this service.”

The Principal Financial Group provides group life and health insurance<sup>1</sup> for approximately 5 million participants and has earned a solid reputation for member satisfaction by offering customers the benefit designs and services that meet or exceed their employee benefit needs while providing accurate, timely, and cost effective service levels.

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<sup>1</sup> Insurance issued by Principal Life Insurance Company, Des Moines, Iowa 50392  
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2865 Amwiler Road N.W. Suite 400 Atlanta, Georgia 30360-2827  
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## About NEA

NEA is the leader in internet-based solutions for the healthcare industry and offers systems designed to make the process of insurance submissions and processing as easy as possible for the Patient, the Healthcare Office and the Insurance Payor.

## About the Principal Financial Group

The Principal Financial Group<sup>®</sup> (The Principal<sup>®</sup>)<sup>2</sup> is a leader in offering businesses, individuals and institutional clients a wide range of financial products and services, including retirement and investment services, life and health insurance and mortgage banking through its diverse family of financial services companies. More employers choose the Principal Financial Group for their 401(k) plans than any other bank, mutual fund, or insurance company in the United States<sup>3</sup>. A member of the Fortune 500, the Principal Financial Group has \$128.0 billion in assets under management<sup>4</sup> and serves some 14.8 million customers worldwide from offices in Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America and the United States. Principal Financial Group, Inc. is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol PFG. For more information, visit [www.principal.com](http://www.principal.com).

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<sup>2</sup> "The Principal Financial Group" and "The Principal" are registered service marks of Principal Financial Services, Inc., a member of the Principal Financial Group.

<sup>3</sup> *CFO Magazine*, April/May 2003, based on total plans served in 2002 by insurance companies, banks and investment firms.

<sup>4</sup> As of June 30, 2003