

## **VENTEGRA<sup>SM</sup> ANNOUNCES FORMULARY INAUGURAL RELEASE, AND NEWLY ASSEMBLED CLINICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Ventegra's Formulary: 'No more behind closed door decisions' – Formulary developed with expert input from clients and reasons for including and excluding are disclosed**

**LA JOLLA, CA, January 17, 2006** – Ventegra,<sup>SM</sup> focused on the delivery of pharmaceutical services that make paramount both transparency and flexibility, today announced the formation of their Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC) along with their first three-tiered formulary for Ventegra's clients. Ventegra provides new channels in the delivery of healthcare that are more efficient and less fragmented than the current system to improve affordability, access, and quality of care.

Ventegra's President and CEO Robert Taketomo, Pharm.D, MBA, says, "The Ventegra Clinical Advisory Committee represents a fundamental shift from the traditional Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee approach to controlling drug utilization and formularies that is underscored by the philosophy of full disclosure and 'no more behind closed door decisions making.'"

Dr. Taketomo explains, "The CAC structure allows Ventegra's clients to have full economic and clinical information available when designing formulary and guideline recommendations. Thus, Ventegra's clients are more fully engaged in follow through with formulary compliance and program development."

Alex Gilderman, Pharm.D, Vice President, Clinical Programs, Ventegra, adds, "This formulary is unlike other drug formularies; it is not limited strictly to traditional prescription agents. As our formularies further evolve, we will include injectable and specialty drugs."

Ventegra's formulary also provides information on over-the-counter alternatives so that physicians and consumers can seek all possible options for various healthcare needs. Dr. Gilderman explains that in the treatment of arthritis, for example, physicians and patients will have information on over-the-counter treatments, prescription agents, and the newest injectable products for the treatment of this disease. Ventegra's formulary will allow for greater client flexibility and can adapt to a broad range of benefit designs to meet the needs of patients and clients.

The new formulary will be provided to Ventegra's regional and nationally based providers in the healthcare arena, representing approximately 1.2 million lives and an annualized spend in pharmaceuticals of more than \$250 million.

A powerful tool for improving the quality and controlling the cost of drug therapy, the Ventegra formulary is available in three versions: Preferred: generic and branded products; Premium: generic and more robust branded products, and Premium Plus: most robust offering in terms of number of drugs.

Ventegra's formulary will be a dynamic document, updated quarterly through the CAC, but will make consistent changes to accommodate and keep pace with marketplace demands.

For more information, visit [www.ventegra.NET](http://www.ventegra.NET). For business inquiries, please contact Jerry Kugler, Vice President, Business Development, 858.551.8111, Ext. 123.

## **ABOUT VENTEGRA**

Ventegra<sup>sm</sup> is the first Contracting Service Organization (CSO), offering an innovative solution for cost efficient pharmaceutical services that maximizes the benefits for payors, providers and patients. Ventegra enables clients to manage their own pharmacy benefit program by offering an a la carte menu of services and programs from which to choose. Among the innovative programs being offered are obtaining pharmaceutical products at true acquisition cost, delivery programs that address the challenge with injectable pharmaceuticals, and a web-based rebate system that allows full transparency. [www.ventegra.NET](http://www.ventegra.NET).