

**Seattle health-care organization broadens access to doctors and hospitals in eight states  
First Choice extends reach, aligns with 3 PPOs**

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Washington's largest independent preferred provider organization, **First Choice Health**, has affiliated with three other large PPO networks in a bid to continue its expansion and to pitch its services to self-insured multistate employers.

Independent PPO organizations Arizona Foundation for Medical Care, California Foundation for Medical Care and Universal Health Network/Nevada Preferred Professionals teamed up with First Choice to form Phoenix-based **VentureNet Healthcare**.

A First Choice subsidiary, Oregon-based **HealthCare Direct**, is also part of the new group.

Arizona Foundation for Medical Care is the group's catalyst. "The Arizona guys took the ball and ran with it," said First Choice CEO Ken Hamm.