



Guardian boosts vision, dental business with Avesis buy

Guardian Life Insurance Company has announced plans to acquire Avēsis Incorporated, a vision, dental and hearing benefits administrator for government and commercial benefit programs.

Earlier this year, Guardian ranked No. 6 on *Employee Benefit Adviser's* list of top 10 large-group dental insurance carriers in the U.S., with a total market share of 3.91% and \$272,529,054 of in-force dental premiums.

Chris Swanker, currently Guardian's vice president of group and worksite markets, will assume the role of chief executive officer of Avēsis.

Avēsis administers vision, dental and hearing benefits for three million members under Medicaid, CHIP and Medicare Advantage programs and 1.5 million members are covered by its group vision programs.

The acquisition "underscores our commitment to delivering affordable, quality vision, dental and hearing care to Americans where and how they prefer to be served," said Swanker. "Avēsis' proprietary network of independent dentists and optometrists provide significant synergies with Guardian's extensive benefits portfolio."

The deal is subject to regulatory approval.