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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PREMIER HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE RECOGNIZES ASCENT FOR PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE WHILE HELPING HOSPITALS REDUCE WASTE AND SUPPLY COSTS**

**PHOENIX, Ariz. – June 21, 2010 –** Ascent, a leader in delivering healthcare resource sustainability, is a winner of a 2010 Pinnacle Award presented by Premier healthcare alliance's Purchasing Partners. The award recognizes Ascent for exceeding operational and quality expectations while helping alliance members reduce supply costs and medical waste through safe and effective medical device reprocessing. Premier, a performance improvement alliance of more than 2,300 U.S. hospitals and 67,000 healthcare sites, honors just 4 percent of its suppliers with a Pinnacle Award each year.

"This award identifies those valued suppliers who strive for collaboration and performance excellence to benefit the alliance. We thank them for their assistance and are pleased to recognize them as top performers," said Premier Purchasing Partners president Mike Alkire.

The Pinnacle Awards are determined by performance data over four successive calendar quarters. In 2009, Ascent's reprocessing services saved Premier members a total of \$32,820,965 in supply costs, and diverted 1,077,125 pounds of medical waste from landfills.

"Receiving the Pinnacle Award underscores the unique value Ascent provides to Premier healthcare alliance members and reinforces the importance of Ascent's single use device (SUD) reprocessing services as an innovative supply chain strategy for alliance members," said Kevin Liszewski, vice president, corporate accounts, Ascent. "We are honored, and will continue to work to exceed expectations as our reprocessing programs remain an important

strategy for assisting our customers in meeting their goals for delivering high-quality, cost-effective healthcare.”

### **ABOUT ASCENT: A STRYKER SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTION**

Ascent, a division of Stryker Corporation, is the leading provider of reprocessing (cleaning, testing/verifying, packaging and sterilizing) and remanufacturing (disassembling, repairing and manufacturing) services for medical devices as well as comprehensive recycling and redistribution initiatives. Stryker is the only global OEM to offer innovative, cost-effective sustainability solutions, like Ascent’s reprocessing and remanufacturing programs, to help meet the demands of its hospital partners. Specifically, Ascent’s programs target inefficient practices and reclaim and redirect consumable and financial resources in order to promote healthy and responsible hospitals. Ascent’s customers include most of the “Honor Roll” hospitals recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*. For more information about Ascent, visit [www.ascenths.com](http://www.ascenths.com).

### **ABOUT PREMIER**

Premier is a performance improvement alliance of more than 2,300 U.S. hospitals and 67,000-plus other healthcare sites working together to achieve high quality, cost-effective care. Owned by not-for-profit hospitals, Premier maintains the nation's most comprehensive repository of clinical, financial and outcomes information and operates a leading healthcare purchasing network. A world leader in helping deliver measurable improvements in care, Premier works with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the United Kingdom's National Health Service North West to improve hospital performance. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Premier also has offices in San Diego, Philadelphia and Washington. For more information, visit [www.premierinc.com](http://www.premierinc.com).

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