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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PAUL RICE JOINS ASCENT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS**

*Promotions of two key long-term employees further strengthen the company's quality assurance programs*

**Phoenix, Ariz. – January 16, 2008** – Ascent Healthcare Solutions (Ascent) announced today that Paul Rice has joined the company as senior vice president of quality assurance (QA) and regulatory affairs (RA). Rice has nearly 30 years' leadership experience in planning, organizing and managing quality assurance and regulatory affairs functions in the medical device, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Two promotions of long-term employees further strengthen Ascent's quality assurance operations: Tina Fleming is now vice president of QA for the Phoenix operations and Chris Dible is vice president of QA for the Lakeland, Fla., operations. Dible will relocate to Lakeland from the Phoenix headquarters.

Rice will manage Ascent's QA/RA operations and oversee both regulatory and compliance strategies in the areas of registration, listing, labeling, 510(k)s and the fulfilling of quality system regulation (QSR) requirements. In his position, he will use his proven strengths in providing leadership and strategic guidance in global quality assurance, regulatory affairs and manufacturing operations.

"Ascent's commitment to quality and regulatory compliance is central to our company mission. We are proud of our stellar FDA compliance record and our quality assurance programs. With these appointments, we continue to enhance our regulatory and quality

assurance organizations,” said Ascent CEO John Grotting.

Rice brings to Ascent his extensive experience in developing and coordinating 510(k) and premarket approval (PMA) submissions as well as in implementing quality systems that comply with the International Standards Organization (ISO), Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) regulations, Quality System Regulation (QSR), Good Clinical Practice (QCP) and Good Laboratory Practice (GLP).

Previously, he was a consultant with QSR Medical, where he designed and developed quality systems for medical device and pharmaceutical companies. Prior to that, he held various high-level executive positions with companies that include Cardinal Health, Bausch & Lomb Surgical, Pharmacia & Upjohn-IOVISION, and Johnson & Johnson Inc.-IOLAB.

“I am very excited about joining Ascent Healthcare Solutions management team,” explains Paul Rice. “The company’s commitment to customer satisfaction, quality, and regulatory compliance promotes an attitude of achievement and drive for business excellence among its employees. I look forward to being a part of Ascent’s ongoing growth and success.”

Rice attained the rank of Major in the United States Army, Special Forces. He earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif., and his MBA in business administration from the university’s campus in Pomona, Calif.

### **About Ascent Healthcare Solutions**

Since its inception, Ascent Healthcare Solutions, the leading independent third-party reprocessor of single-use medical devices (SUDs), has reprocessed more than 50 million SUDs, saving its customers in excess of \$500 million in supply expenses and eliminating over 10,000 tons from local landfills. Ascent’s 1,700 hospital partners include most of the *U.S. News and World Report* “Honor Roll” hospitals. The company has agreements with all leading national group purchasing organizations as well as numerous nationally recognized hospital integrated delivery networks. The company has also been recognized as a “Champion for Change” by Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) in recognition of the dramatic environmental benefits reprocessing by Ascent provides to U.S. hospitals and surgery centers. For more information about Ascent Healthcare Solutions, visit [www.ascenths.com](http://www.ascenths.com).

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