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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASCENT INKS SINGLE SOURCE DEAL WITH MAJOR HOSPITAL SUPPLY NETWORK

PHOENIX, Ariz. – July 19, 2010 – Ascent, a leader in delivering healthcare resource sustainability, has been awarded a three-year single source agreement with Upper Midwest Consolidated Service Center (UMCSC), a supply network of VHA member hospitals in the Midwest. Under the contract – one that is rare in the healthcare sector, Ascent will become the sole provider of single use device (SUD) reprocessing programs to 120 hospitals across seven states.

Reprocessing programs are responsible for helping hospitals divert 5.3 million pounds of medical waste from landfills each year. Additionally, with reprocessed devices costing approximately half the cost of single-use OEM devices, reprocessing offers significant cost savings for hospitals that are looking to direct as many resources as possible to patient care quality initiatives. For UMCSC members, SUD reprocessing represents a smart and innovative supply chain strategy that not only supports financial performance, but also addresses the increasing concerns for sustainability in healthcare by reducing medical waste.

“A single-source contract is the ultimate gesture of support in the healthcare sector. We are honored that UMCSC recognizes the value our reprocessing programs bring to its members,” said Kevin Liszewski, vice president, corporate accounts, Ascent. “The contract will allow us to enhance our partnership with UMCSC and look for ways to maximize the savings potential for its members.”

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.

ABOUT UPPER MIDWEST CONSOLIDATED SERVICE CENTER

The Upper Midwest Consolidated Services Center (UMCSC) is a local, member-driven supply network of 35 VHA Upper Midwest member organizations. The members of the UMCSC will initially focus on committing to centralized sourcing and contracting, with future plans to explore other potential supply chain management initiatives and shared business solutions. UMCSC reflects a vision that healthcare providers and suppliers must work closely together in order to deliver increased clinical effectiveness and economic efficiency.

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