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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTHTRUST PURCHASING GROUP RENEWS MEDICAL DEVICE REPROCESSING
AGREEMENT WITH ASCENT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS**

Agreement underscores cost savings and environmental stewardship benefits

Phoenix, Ariz. – May 5, 2008 – HealthTrust Purchasing Group’s (HealthTrust) more than 1,400 not-for-profit and for-profit acute care facilities, as well as ambulatory surgery centers, physician practices, and alternate care sites, can continue to benefit from medical device reprocessing services provided by Ascent Healthcare Solutions (Ascent) under a HealthTrust contract renewal announced today. Ascent, the largest supplier of reprocessed medical devices to HealthTrust members, projects that HealthTrust members will save approximately \$57.9 million in device costs and about \$477,000 in waste management expenses, as well as divert 907 tons of products from landfills, over the course of the three-year agreement. This is an increase over the significant savings achieved since HealthTrust first contracted with Ascent in 2005.

Ascent is the leading independent reprocessor of single-use medical devices (SUDs), with more than 80 510(k)s cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Under careful oversight by the FDA and its own internal rigorous inspection of each device, Ascent provides reprocessed cardiovascular, endoscopic/laparoscopic, general surgery/OR, orthopedic/arthroscopic, gastroenterology, respiratory and ophthalmology devices. Because a reprocessed device typically costs about half as much as a new device, HealthTrust

members can safely maximize their savings by taking advantage of Ascent's broad range of reprocessed devices. They realize additional gains in environmental stewardship by helping divert devices from overtaxed landfills, and can also take advantage of Ascent's general recycling services.

Ascent's Chief Operating Officer Rick Ferreira commented, "We are proud of our continuing relationship with HealthTrust, and are pleased to provide this service that benefits the environment and helps hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers realize needed savings that can be used to enhance patient care."

About HealthTrust Purchasing Group

HealthTrust Purchasing Group, headquartered in Brentwood, Tenn., is a group purchasing organization that supports over 1,400 not-for-profit and for-profit acute care facilities, as well as ambulatory surgery centers, physician practices, and alternate care sites. With an annual purchasing volume by its members of more than \$13 billion, HealthTrust is committed to obtaining the best price for clinically-recommended products, ensuring their timely delivery and continuously evaluating and improving its services to the patients, physicians and clinicians it serves. HealthTrust is located at 155 Franklin Road, Suite 400, Brentwood, Tenn. 37027 Website: www.healthtrustpg.com.

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.

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