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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VHA RENEWS AGREEMENT WITH ASCENT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS  
AS ITS REPROCESSING/REMANUFACTURING PARTNER**

*Award of Reprocessing Agreement Underscores Magnitude of Value Ascent  
Brings to VHA Membership*

**Phoenix, Ariz. – July 30, 2009** – Ascent Healthcare Solutions, a leader in delivering healthcare resource sustainability, today announced that VHA Inc., the national health care network, has awarded Ascent an agreement to provide remanufactured/reprocessed “single-use” medical devices. The agreement between the companies solidifies their mutual commitment to improving the cost and quality of healthcare and protecting the environment. The scope of the partnership goes beyond an endorsement of Ascent’s program; it launches a renewed and stronger collaboration between VHA and Ascent to drive hospital sustainability and demonstrates the added, substantial value VHA members will receive from the agreement.

In 2008, VHA members that participated in Ascent’s program saved more than \$38 million and diverted one million pounds of waste. “VHA hospitals have enjoyed a successful collaboration with Ascent, and look forward to achieving stronger results year after year,” explained Amy Anthony, Senior Vice President, VHA supply chain services.

Rick Ferreira, Chief Operating Officer of Ascent Healthcare Solutions, explained, “It is

gratifying to be a part of this transformational change—creating healthy hospitals that are patient-care focused and that are also environmentally and economically more sustainable. Through this renewed agreement we can create even stronger results for VHA hospitals; the added value of our agreement is just another way we deliver exponential value to our partners. We will work closely with VHA to ensure its members optimize the benefits of the program so that they may focus on providing quality care for patients and consumers.”

### **About VHA**

VHA Inc. is a national network of more than 1,400 not-for-profit community hospitals and 24,000 non-acute care providers working together to improve their clinical and financial performance. VHA offers comprehensive supply chain management services, world-class health care analytics and an innovative suite of clinical support services. The VHA network includes some of the nation's largest integrated delivery systems, urban health care providers and small, rural hospitals. VHA, recognized for its citizenship and sustainability practices, is based in Irving, Texas, and has a network of 16 regional offices across the country.

### **ABOUT ASCENT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS**

By continuously pioneering sustainability initiatives in healthcare, Ascent Healthcare Solutions has become a leader in the medical device industry. Ascent’s programs target inefficient practices to reclaim and redirect consumable and financial resources to promote healthy and responsible hospitals. Today, Ascent’s medical device sustainability programs deliver remanufactured and/or reprocessed medical devices as well as comprehensive recycling and redistribution initiatives. Ascent has been recognized as a “Champion for Change” by Practice Greenhealth in recognition of the dramatic environmental benefits its remanufacturing and reprocessing programs provide to U.S. hospitals and surgery centers. Ascent’s more than 1,800 hospital partners include most of the *U.S. News & 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. For more information about Ascent Healthcare Solutions, visit [www.ascenths.com](http://www.ascenths.com).

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