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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BANNER HEALTH RENEWS MEDICAL DEVICE REPROCESSING AGREEMENT
WITH ASCENT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS**

Patient safety, healthcare cost containment and environmental stewardship are key factors

Phoenix, Ariz. – June 26, 2008 – Ascent Healthcare Solutions, the leading independent third-party reprocessor of medical devices, announced today that Banner Health, one of the nation’s largest nonprofit healthcare systems, has renewed its exclusive contract with Ascent for reprocessing services. Banner cites benefits in patient safety, healthcare costs and environmental stewardship for its seven-state system of hospitals and healthcare facilities as key factors in the renewal that will save an estimated \$5.6 million in supply costs and \$75,000 in waste management while diverting 27.4 tons from already overtaxed landfills over the three-year term.

“We are proud of our standing in the communities we serve, providing vital healthcare services to our patients,” said Doug Bowen, Banner’s vice president of materials management. “We take very seriously our responsibility to delivering superior patient care as well as our commitment to financial and environmental sustainability. Ascent continues to deliver significant value to Banner and our community, and we believe an additional layer of safety has been created due to the rigorous screening and testing Ascent performs on each reprocessed device.”

Since contracting for reprocessing services, Banner has reduced supply costs by more than \$5.1 million and diverted nearly 42,000 tons from local landfills.

With more than 80 products cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for reprocessing, Ascent offers a broad range of reprocessed cardiovascular, endoscopic/laparoscopic, general surgery/OR, orthopedic/arthroscopic, gastroenterology, respiratory and ophthalmology devices. Banner, with a system-wide total bed count of 2,935 that includes the 12 acute care and 8 local surgery centers across the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming that participate in the reprocessing program, uses many of Ascent's offered product lines.

"Banner Health's extensive organization spans a broad spectrum of healthcare delivery needs," said Kevin Liszewski, Ascent's vice president of corporate accounts. "We are proud to support Banner's mission of providing high-quality care in an environmentally responsible manner."

About Banner Health

Banner Health is one of the largest nonprofit health care systems in the country, serving Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming. Headquartered in Phoenix, Ariz., the Banner Health system includes: 22 hospitals, long-term care centers, facilities specializing in the needs of children, and an array of other services, including family clinics, home care services and home medical equipment services. For more information, please visit www.bannerhealth.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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