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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASCENT HEALTHCARE RECEIVES 510(k) CLEARANCE FOR PHACOEMULSIFICATION TIPS
*Latest 510(k) clearance demonstrates Ascent's commitment to providing
customers with an expanding number of safely reprocessed devices*

Phoenix, Ariz. – April 17, 2006 – Ascent Healthcare Solutions (Ascent) , the industry's leading reprocessor of single-use medical devices (SUDs), today announced U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance of Ascent's reprocessed Phacoemulsification tips (PhacoTips) by Alcon Laboratories. The FDA's decision to grant Ascent the 510(k) clearance illustrates the Company's full compliance with the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002.

"We are committed to providing our healthcare partners with the greatest reprocessing savings opportunities by offering an expanding family of available products," said Don Selvey, chief quality officer for Ascent, "We work closely with the FDA to ensure that our increasing number of product offerings meet and exceed the high standards set by the FDA for reprocessed medical devices. We can ensure that our expanded family of products not only reduce hospital supply costs significantly, but are also safe and reliable to use."

PhacoTips are used to emulsify and excise cataract tissue in ophthalmic microsurgical procedures. When connected to the ultrasonic handpiece of a phacoemulsification system, and activated, the PhacoTip vibrates at an ultrasonic frequency that emulsifies cataract tissue.

Collectively, Ascent has safely reprocessed more than 40 million SUDs for over 1,700 healthcare facilities nationwide. Ascent expects to help its customers save in excess of \$92 million in supply expenses in the coming year, which may be redirected to patient services. In addition, the company expects to eliminate over 1,000 tons of medical waste from the nation's landfills annually.

About Ascent Healthcare Solutions

Ascent Healthcare Solutions is the leading independent third-party reprocessor of specific single-use medical devices (SUDs) and has reprocessed more than 40 million SUDs for over 1,700 healthcare facilities nationwide. The company's primary reprocessing center and home office are in Phoenix, Ariz. with an additional reprocessing center in Lakeland, Fla. Ascent holds agreements with all leading national group purchasing organizations as well as numerous nationally recognized hospital integrated delivery networks that collectively represent more than 5,000 healthcare facilities. For more information about Ascent Healthcare Solutions, visit www.ascenthealthcaresolutions.com.

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