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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VHA DRIVES SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE RESULTS THROUGH INNOVATIVE
MEDICAL DEVICE PROGRAMS**

2008 Results Impressive, 2009 Goals Ambitious

PHOENIX, Ariz. – March 23, 2009 – Ascent Healthcare Solutions, a leader in delivering healthcare resource sustainability, today announced that VHA Inc., the national healthcare alliance, has achieved significant results from its medical device remanufacturing/reprocessing program, supporting its members' efforts to reduce supply costs and encourage environmental responsibility. In 2008, VHA members saved *more than \$38 million* in medical device supply costs by using Ascent's remanufactured and reprocessed devices, a high-quality alternative to purchasing expensive Single-Use Devices from OEMs.

This level of supply cost savings has made important differences to individual VHA member hospitals, with some hospitals saving more than \$500,000 annually through remanufacturing/reprocessing programs.

VHA's support of remanufacturing and reprocessing illustrates a strong commitment to increasing its members' financial stability and environmental sustainability. As a leading group purchasing organization, VHA understands that hospitals must use health care resources innovatively and responsibly. This means optimizing usage of resources to enable hospitals to be environmentally responsible while reducing supply costs to improve the overall quality of patient care. Remanufacturing and reprocessing medical devices

simultaneously accomplishes the demands for better resource utilization and environmentally responsible practices.

Amy Anthony, Senior Vice President of Supply Chain Services for VHA, stated, "We are constantly looking to identify and cultivate new ways of helping our membership become more financially sound and more environmentally responsible. With Ascent's model of medical device remanufacturing, we have identified a solution that combines environmental responsibility with sound procurement practices."

In 2008, VHA members saved almost \$40 million, a \$10 million increase over last year. Members can redirect these savings toward different initiatives, such as improving the quality of patient care. At the same time, the Ascent program allowed VHA members to reduce medical waste by more than one million pounds, demonstrating the dramatic impact remanufacturing and reprocessing has had in supporting VHA's commitment to environmental responsibility.

VHA anticipates more significant results from the program in 2009 as many VHA members have the potential to double or triple their savings by more fully utilizing the remanufacturing/reprocessing program.

"While the nation and the U.S. government scrutinize the nation's health care delivery system and seek ways to improve it, increasing numbers of hospitals and surgical centers are taking actions to make a difference now," said Kevin Liszewski, Ascent's Vice President of Strategic Accounts. "In 2008, Ascent's customers increased their utilization of medical device remanufacturing/reprocessing programs by 20 percent and we expect to see this trend continue in 2009 as more and more hospitals, group purchasing organizations and integrated delivery networks discover remanufacturing/reprocessing as an important sustainability option for resource planning and decision making. Hospitals are already responding to economic conditions by more vigorously pursuing Ascent's programs and relying on the results to enhance their survivability."

About VHA

VHA Inc., based in Irving, Texas, is a national health care alliance that provides industry-leading supply chain management services and supports the formation of regional and national networks to help members improve their clinical and economic performance.

With 16 offices across the U.S., VHA has a track record of proven results in serving more than 1,400 not-for-profit hospitals and more than 23,000 non-acute care organizations nationwide.

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 Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (now 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

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