



HEALTHTRUST®
PURCHASING GROUP

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

CONSORTA, INC. FINALIZES AGREEMENT TO BECOME SIXTH EQUITY OWNER OF HEALTHTRUST PURCHASING GROUP

Schaumburg, Ill., April 18, 2007 – Consorta, Inc. and HealthTrust Purchasing Group, LP, two of the nation's leading healthcare group purchasing organizations, today finalized the agreement that establishes Consorta as the sixth equity owner in HealthTrust.

The combination of the two companies creates the nation's fourth largest group purchasing organization (GPO), with more than \$13 billion in combined volume. "As an equity owner of HealthTrust, we will be able to offer members the best overall contract value and return among all GPOs," explained John W. Strong, Consorta's president and chief executive officer.

According to Strong, during the first five years of the partnership, Consorta forecasts that the combination will provide shareholders and members with \$535 million in cost savings, via price reductions and broader coverage afforded by HealthTrust's portfolio. All 12 Consorta shareholders are participating in the combination, along with Consorta affiliates.

"We are very pleased to have these outstanding Consorta shareholders and affiliates as new members of HealthTrust," said Jim Fitzgerald, president of HealthTrust. "While it validates our unique model and value-proposition, I'm even more excited about the potential to strengthen our competitive position. We'll refresh all of our contracts over the next 18 months, delivering added value to all HealthTrust members."

HealthTrust will be responsible for all GPO Operations, including contracting. Consorta will remain an independent organization, serving as its shareholders' voice on the HealthTrust Board of Advisors, and on HealthTrust clinical advisory boards to guide product selection. Consorta will also provide educational and analytical programs and manage member compliance for its shareholders.

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“This combination holds great promise for each Consorta shareholder, and I believe it will yield tremendous benefit in shared best practices, in addition to the economic value,” said Lou Fierens, Consorta Board Chair and senior vice president, Supply Chain Management and Capital Projects at Trinity Health.

About Consorta:

Consorta, based in suburban Chicago, is a leading healthcare resource management and group purchasing organization whose shareholders are faith-based or non-profit health systems. Consorta’s 12 shareholder healthcare systems are among the leading integrators of non-profit healthcare in America. Consorta’s membership now encompasses more than 3,500 care sites, including more than 530 acute care and over 250 extended care facilities throughout the country. Through its Advantage Program, Consorta provides contract purchasing power for some of the nation's leading non-profit organizations, including America's Blood Centers, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, America's Promise, Camp Fire USA, Catholic Charities USA, Girls Incorporated, Lutheran Services in America, National Council on Aging, National Mental Health Association, Salvation Army, Save the Children Foundation, United Way of America and YWCA USA. Consorta, Inc. is located at 1475 E. Woodfield Road, Suite 400, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173. Phone (847) 592-7800, Fax: (847) 592-7801. For more information, visit www.consorta.com.

About HealthTrust Purchasing Group, LP:

HealthTrust Purchasing Group, headquartered in Brentwood, Tenn., is a group purchasing organization that supports over 1300 not-for-profit and for-profit acute care hospitals, including HCA, Triad, HMA, Community Health Systems and Lifepoint, as well as over 1,500 ambulatory surgery centers, alternate care sites, and physician practices. 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 improving services to the patients, physicians and clinicians they serve. HealthTrust is located at 155 Franklin Road, Suite 400, Brentwood, TN 37027; Web site: www.healthtrustpg.com.

For more information, press only:

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