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Reprocessed medical devices are safe, stringently regulated and an answer to the health care costs crisis

Reprocessing industry group challenges OEMs to become part of the solution

(Virginia Beach, VA) - Speaking today at the Virginia Association for Healthcare Resource and Material Management (VAHRMM) Fall Conference, Daniel J. Vukelich, executive director of the Association of Medical Device Reprocessors (AMDR), extolled the safety record of the reprocessing industry. "AMDR members have provided hospitals with safe, FDA-regulated medical devices for over a decade. There is no controversy about reprocessed medical devices. They are safe and effective, and they save hospitals money. Forty-four hospitals in Virginia agree and use reprocessed medical devices. The only controversy is the economic battle between original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and reprocessors," said Vukelich.

The nation's third-party reprocessors have safely reprocessed over 50 million devices all the while maintaining a stellar safety record. Unlike OEMs who may test or inspect a sampling of the devices they produce, AMDR's members test or inspect 100 percent of the devices they reprocess. AMDR's members are committed to complete device traceability. Each reprocessed device is marked to indicate that it has been reprocessed, how many times, and which hospital it came from.

Vukelich noted that to date there have been zero deaths caused by a failed reprocessed device and that there have been zero lawsuits filed against device reprocessors. "Most original equipment manufacturers cannot say this," he said.

The reprocessing industry has safely reprocessed over 50 million devices and prevented over 10,000 tons of medical waste from entering our landfills. No other segment of the medical device industry is helping hospitals to reduce waste and costs like the nation's third-party reprocessors.

"Hospitals today are subject to many challenges: outcomes are measured, costs are ranked and pressure applied to do more with less. Third-party reprocessing helps to control costs, cuts waste and is part of the solution to solving the health care crisis. We challenge our OEM competitors to become part of the solution as well," said Vukelich.

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AMDR is a Washington, D.C.-based trade association representing third-party reproprocessors of medical devices labeled for "single-use." AMDR member companies serve the majority of hospitals in the US and provide services for the top hospitals in the country as listed by *US News & World Report* including all of the top ten cardiac and orthopedic hospitals as well as 17 of the 18 facilities on its "Best Hospitals" list. For more information visit our website at www.amdr.org