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RF Care Systems Has Maintained Exclusive Distribution Rights to Market the RF Surgical Detection System in Puerto Rico

BELLEVUE, Wash. & WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--We are pleased to announce that the legal dispute between RF Surgical Systems and Medline Industries ended with an amicable settlement in May 13th, 2009. The settlement consists of allowing Medline to market the RF Surgical Detection System in the United States (excluding Puerto Rico) and Canada as a non-exclusive distributor. The new expanded agreement also includes Medline's coverage of New Zealand and Australia.

Unfortunately, by the time this legal dispute was settled, several customers in Puerto Rico admitted having some confusion mostly associated with Medline's claim of having the exclusivity in Puerto Rico. RF Care Systems has already been positioned as the exclusive distributor of the RF Surgical Detection Systems in Puerto Rico, including the sponsorship of several AORN activities; evaluated multiple hospitals successfully with full support of RF Surgical Systems; and established the logistics needed to service the territory.

RF Care Systems, LLC continues to be the exclusive distributor of the RF Surgical Detection System in Puerto Rico and is the only entity with exclusive rights to market, evaluate and provide technical support to hospitals, surgery centers and other healthcare providers in the territory.

At this time, officials at Medline have been notified by RF Surgical Systems that RF Care Systems will continue to retain exclusivity of the Puerto Rico market and encourage all customers with the desire to evaluate and convert to the RF Surgical Detection System to contact RF Care Systems at 561-747-4027 or our local sales representative in Puerto Rico, Mr. José Acevedo, at 787-447-4305 or via email at info@rfcaresystems.com.

This settlement has no impact to existing RF Care Systems customers in Puerto Rico and excludes the RF Surgical Detection System from any contract obligation from unauthorized distributors claiming to have the right to sell the system in the territory. The product warranties and support will only be honored through RF Care Systems, LLC.

The patented and FDA-approved RF Surgical Detection System scans for and signals an alert if any radio frequency-tagged sponges, gauze or towels remain in a patient prior to surgical closing procedures. Since the system was FDA approved over two years ago, all hospitals currently utilizing this technology have eliminated the problem of retained surgical sponges/gauze in patients.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and an increasing number of private insurers have indicated that they will no longer provide reimbursement for procedures associated with "never" events such as left-behind surgical sponges. Published studies today indicate that one in every 1,000 to 1,500 intra-abdominal surgeries results in a sponge left behind in a patient. A retained sponge incident can lead to serious complications, including sepsis, unnecessary x-rays, need for repeat surgeries and even death.

About RF Surgical Systems, Inc.

RF Surgical Systems is a privately held medical device company headquartered in Bellevue, Washington and maintains engineering R & D facilities in San Diego, California. The concept for the RF Surgical Detection System was developed by Dr. Jeffrey Port, a thoracic surgeon, and Mr. William Blair, an electrical engineer. The system was the first FDA-approved surgical sponge detection system on the market. For more information, please visit www.rfsurg.com.

About RF Care Systems, LLC.

RF Care Systems is a privately held manufacturer and distributor of healthcare products with headquarters in Florida and Guaynabo, PR. The core competency of RF Care Systems is to manufacture and distribute products containing patented smart technology. The company targets specific technology gaps in the healthcare industry setting the pace for new and better standard of patient

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