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KLAS Study Ranks AmerisourceBergen's Bridge Medical Top BPOC System Vendor

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VALLEY FORGE, Pa.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 13, 2004--AmerisourceBergen Corporation, one of the largest pharmaceutical services companies in the U.S., today announced its Bridge Medical unit has received the top vendor ranking in the recently released KLAS Enterprises "Medication Administration - Bedside Study". KLAS is the only research and consulting firm that specializes in monitoring and reporting the performance of the healthcare's information technology (HIT) vendors. The KLAS Enterprises study was their first ever evaluation of medication administration systems, measuring performance ratings across 40 different numeric criteria.

The KLAS Enterprises study found that Bridge Medical and its MedPoint(TM) patient safety system ranked number one overall among the top three BPOC vendors. The study also found that Bridge received the highest score in the Product Quality Rating indicator. Bridge customers indicated that their selection of the MedPoint system had been based not only on the advanced system functionality of MedPoint, but the entire Bridge experience that is defined by a positive sales and contracting process, top-rated implementation and the highest quality post implementation support. Jason Hess, Director of Business Development at KLAS noted, "In our first ever in-depth look at the Medication Administration market segment, Bridge Medical's customers reported the highest scores of all vendors in 32 of the 40 numeric performance indicators."

Upon hearing the KLAS results, John Hummel, chief information officer of the Sutter Health network of hospitals and physician organizations in northern California, commented, "I'm not surprised that Bridge is top rated. Sutter Health has now dispensed over two million doses using Bridge, making us a leader in the implementation of BPOC systems. The successful adoption of this technology requires the right partner. We found that with Bridge."

In response to the study findings Denean Rivera, President of Bridge Medical, said, "Bridge is very pleased to have KLAS validate what we have been hearing from our customers, that their experience with Bridge as a vendor is unmatched in the industry. This achievement is really a reflection of our successful partnerships with customers committed to using MedPoint to improve their standard of care. While we relish our top ranking, our hats are off to all the visionary hospitals that have made MedPoint the superior system it is today."

The KLAS study comes as the use of technology in medication administration is broadly gaining the attention as a means to reduce medication errors and improve patient safety. Often referred to as "five rights checkers," barcode point-of-care (BPOC) systems provide technology in support of the right patient receiving the right medication at the right time by the right route in the right dose. As the study cites, the Bridge system is most often selected by hospitals based on its superior product functionality that extends well beyond the five rights to safeguard patients by providing the nurse advanced clinical decision support features to avoid medication, transfusion, and specimen identification errors.

About KLAS

KLAS interviewed 105 respondents, including healthcare CIO's and department directors, who evaluated 5 vendors on 40 areas of performance, 3 vendors in the main body of the report and two vendors in the addendum. The addendum also included overviews on 14 vendors who are relatively new to the medication administration market. The report also includes a detailed performance section, technology assessments, win/loss information, implementation challenges in the hospital, quantifiable benefits achieved with these solutions, and overviews on each vendor. This report provides a snapshot of today's bedside medication administration system vendors and compares their strengths and weaknesses against one another, rates them against all medication administration system vendors and finally against the overall KLAS HIT average (the average of all Healthcare Information Technology products in the KLAS database).

About AmerisourceBergen

AmerisourceBergen (NYSE:ABC) is the largest pharmaceutical services company in the United States dedicated solely to the pharmaceutical supply chain. It is the leading distributor of pharmaceutical products and services to the hospital systems/acute care market, physician's offices, alternate care and mail order facilities, independent community pharmacies, and regional chain pharmacies. Bridge Medical, a wholly owned subsidiary of AmerisourceBergen, is a leading provider of point-of-care patient safety solutions and has been honored for its educational initiatives and patient safety solutions. With more than \$47 billion in annualized operating revenue, AmerisourceBergen is headquartered in Valley Forge, PA, and employs more than 14,000 people. AmerisourceBergen is ranked #22 on the Fortune 500 list. For more information, go to www.amerisourcebergen.com.

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