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TandemHeart® PTVA® System Used in Nation's Top-Ranked Hospitals

August 4, 2006, PITTSBURGH – The TandemHeart PTVA System from CardiacAssist, Inc., the world's only extracorporeal 5.0 lpm circulatory support system, is used in 17 of the top 20 heart and heart surgery hospitals in the U.S. and 11 of the nation's top 14 hospitals overall, based on 2006 rankings recently released by U.S. News and World Report. The hospital ranking is included in the magazine's 17th annual guide to America's best hospitals.

The TandemHeart System provides circulatory support through a cardiac catheterization procedure in as little as 30 minutes and can provide up to five liters per minute (lpm) of blood flow.

"We have more than 60 hospitals across the U.S. and more than 70 worldwide that now use the TandemHeart System for extracorporeal circulatory support," said Michael Garippa, president and CEO of CardiacAssist. "It's no coincidence that so many CardiacAssist centers of excellence are among the most highly rated hospitals in the nation."

The TandemHeart System is fully reimbursed by Medicare under existing DRG codes. The device can be placed rapidly in the cath lab or operating room, providing reliable extracorporeal circulatory support.

To date, more than 650 uses of the system in 28 countries at 70 different facilities by 120 different physicians have been performed. The device has received FDA 510(k) clearance for six hour use and is the only FDA approved device of its kind in the U.S.

About CardiacAssist

Founded in 1996, CardiacAssist, Inc. is a privately held, Pittsburgh-based medical device company that develops, manufactures and markets innovative products designed to provide cardiologists and cardiac surgeons with minimally invasive solutions for providing extracorporeal circulatory support. Its vision is to help advance the treatment of heart disease by bridging gaps in current treatment methodologies.

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