

**SECOND QUARTER DEAL VOLUME UP 13%  
LEAD BY INFUSION THERAPY, HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AND STAFFING  
HOME HEALTH SECTOR CONTINUES TO SHINE YEAR-TO-DATE**

PITTSBURGH, PA, August 9, 2007 --The Braff Group (TBG), a leading middle market merger and acquisition firm that specializes in the home health care, hospice, infusion therapy, specialty pharmacy, home medical equipment, and staffing market sectors, released its second quarter 2007 merger and acquisition transaction trend report today. Based upon preliminary figures, there were 51 deals announced and/or completed in the second quarter of 2007, up 13% over last quarter, however, down 28% compared to the same quarter last year. Year-to-date, transaction volume is down 16% versus 2006.

"Private equity groups continue to target the infusion therapy sector," commented Chuck Gaetano, TBG Managing Director for Infusion Therapy and Specialty Pharmacy. "Whereas in 2005, there were no infusion therapy deals completed by private equity sponsors, they accounted for 7 transactions in 2006. Moreover, of the 12 IV deals year-to-date in 2007, 5 were completed by private equity groups. We look for more of this activity over the coming 6 to 12 months as the IV sector continues to build momentum, particularly after the high profile acquisition of OptionCare by Walgreens announced early in the third quarter."

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the Home Medical Equipment sector, which, at least in terms of raw numbers, posted a robust 13 transactions during the quarter. "Unlike past years, where the bulk of activity was larger transactions completed by publicly traded providers and other sizeable multi-regional providers, transaction volume today is being driven by smaller, local and regional firms capitalizing on an unsettled market to acquire modest-sized providers to expand their reach or increase market penetration," said Dexter Braff, President of The Braff Group.

Finally, with another 23 transactions in the second quarter, the home health sector has posted 46 deals year-to-date, up 12% over the same period in 2006. "Home health M&A continues to build on its remarkable run which began, in earnest, mid-2005," commented Steve Braff, Managing Director for Home Health, Hospice, and Staffing. "Now that recently introduced PPS reforms appear manageable – and in some situations, favorable – we expect the sector to remain vibrant over the near term. That said, we're keeping a close eye on tightening credit markets and how it might impact acquisition financing for private equity groups – the buyers that, in large part, have fueled the surge in acquisition activity."

Second Quarter 2007 M&A Activity									
Broad Industry	1st Qtr. 2007	2nd Qtr. 2007	% Change	2nd Qtr. 2006	2nd Qtr. 2007	% Change	YTD 2006	YTD 2007	% Change
HHA	23	23	0.0%	29	23	-20.7%	41	46	12.2%
Hospice	6	-	-100.0%	3	-	-100.0%	5	6	20.0%
Staffing	4	7	75.0%	11	7	-36.4%	15	11	-26.7%
HME	5	13	160.0%	18	13	-27.8%	33	18	-45.5%
Infusion Therapy	5	7	40.0%	6	7	16.7%	13	12	-7.7%
Specialty Pharmacy	2	1	-50.0%	4	1	-75.0%	8	3	-62.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-28.2%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>-16.5%</b>

**About The Braff Group**

The Braff Group is a leading middle market merger and acquisition firm that specializes in the home health care, hospice, infusion therapy, specialty pharmacy, home medical equipment, and staffing market sectors. The firm provides merger and acquisition representation, strategic planning, and valuation services. Since being founded in 1998, The Braff Group has completed more than 100 transactions. In 2006, the firm was awarded Healthcare Deal of the Year by the M&A Advisor, a leading publication dedicated to middle market merger and acquisition activity, for its representation of Canadian Valley Medical Solutions – the third consecutive year The Braff Group has received this award. The firm was also recognized as a finalist for Boutique Investment Banking firm of the Year in 2005 and 2006. Additionally, the firm has been honored as one of the fastest growing companies in the Pittsburgh Region by the Pittsburgh Business Times.

**Contact:**

Dexter W. Braff  
888-922-5169