

**HOME HEALTH AND INFUSION THERAPY SECTORS
SET TRANSACTION VOLUME RECORDS IN 2007
TOTAL TRANSACTION VOLUME KEEPS PACE WITH 2006**

PITTSBURGH, PA, February 28, 2008 --The Braff Group (TBG), a leading middle market merger and acquisition firm that specializes in the home health care, hospice, infusion therapy, specialty pharmacy, health care staffing, and home medical equipment sectors, released its year-end 2007 merger and acquisition transaction trend report today. Based upon preliminary figures, there were 225 transactions announced and/or completed in 2007, slightly down from the 227 deals recorded last year.

The two break-out sectors of the year were home health and home infusion therapy.

For the first time since 2001, when The Braff Group began tracking health care service merger and acquisition activity, a sector exceeded 100 transactions for the year as the home health industry alone accounted for a record 107 deals, up nearly 14% from the previous record of 94 posted in 2006. Moreover, buyers' enthusiasm for the sector has not dampened, even in the face of prospective payment system reform and payment reductions attributable to reimbursement "creep." Accordingly, "valuations for the sector not only held up in 2007, but also ticked upwards, particularly for the most attractive, sizeable, Medicare focused platform-type acquisition targets," commented Steven Braff, TBG Managing Director for home health and hospice. "That said, after a seven year run of relative reimbursement stability since the prospective payment system was introduced, we expect that this first wave of change and cuts will encourage more sellers to test the market, setting the stage for what we anticipate to be another robust year in home health mergers and acquisitions."

In terms of year-over-year deal volume growth, infusion therapy led all sectors with a surge of nearly 32%, posting a record 25 transactions in 2007 versus 19 in 2006. Also noteworthy is that in terms of the largest deals of the year, while no infusion transactions cracked the top 10 in 2006, there were 4 such deals in 2007, led by Walgreens \$850 million acquisition of Option Care. "The breadth, depth, and appetite of infusion therapy buyers – from strategic players, to private equity groups, to other ancillary home care providers – for acquisition candidates both large and small, has arguably never been greater," commented Chuck Gaetano, TBG Managing Director for home infusion therapy and specialty pharmacy. "And with 2008 getting off to a roaring start with the blockbuster acquisition of Critical Homecare Solutions (CHS) by MBF Acquisition Corp, a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) that effectively transforms CHS into a publicly traded company, we expect no let up in acquisition momentum or enthusiasm in the coming year."

Merger and Acquisition Transaction Trends			
Sector	Number of Deals 2006	Number of Deals 2007	Change
Home Health Agencies	94	107	13.8%
Hospice	15	10	-33.3%
Health Care Staffing	24	23	-4.2%
Home Medical Equipment	60	43	-28.3%
Infusion Therapy	19	25	31.6%
Specialty Pharmacy	15	17	13.3%
Total	227	225	-0.9%
Source: The Braff Group			

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, health care staffing, and home medical equipment 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 110 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, 2006 and 2007. Additionally, the firm has been honored as one of the fastest growing companies in the Pittsburgh Region by the Pittsburgh Business Times.

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