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CONTACT:

Lainie Keller
Stern + Associates
(908) 276-4344
lainie@sternassociates.com

WORKFLOW IMPROVEMENTS CAN HELP ADDRESS NURSING SHORTAGES
Siemens creates time saving solutions for critical care units

Danvers, Mass., April 9, 2003 – In response to the nationwide nursing shortage, Siemens Medical Solutions has developed solutions to help nurses save time in the critical care unit. By streamlining workflow processes, nurses are free to focus more time and energy on patient care.

“With the increasing severity of the nursing shortage, it’s important to find ways to save time and simplify processes,” says Bill Isenberg, group vice president of Siemens Electromedical Division. “At Siemens, we developed the INFINITY Patient Monitoring System™ to help clinicians maximize their time, both in the critical care unit and hospital-wide.”

The INFINITY Patient Monitoring System is a comprehensive patient information management solution that gathers, analyzes, distributes and displays patient data in a new and different manner. It delivers information where it’s needed, when it’s needed — in a form that significantly streamlines the clinical workflow. By taking a different approach to monitor design, patient transport, bedside ergonomics and workflow, and patient information management, the INFINITY System can save valuable nursing time, while improving patient care.

Eliminates paperwork. The American Hospital Association reports that for every hour of patient care, 30 to 60 minutes are spent on the subsequent paperwork¹. INFINITY CHARTASSIST™ slashes paperwork by automating the collection, presentation and management of vital signs data — while providing critical-care documentation.

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¹ American Hospital Association

Brings patient information to the point of care. Nurses spend approximately 30 percent of their time looking for critical patient care information². The INFINITY EXPLORER™ critical care workstation and INFINITY Network™ allow clinicians to view critical patient information right at the bedside. This information can come from anywhere in the chain of care, including the pharmacy and lab. Back at the central station, the MULTIVIEW WORKSTATION™ lets nurses continuously monitor up to 16 patients on one screen, or up to 32 on a dual-screen setup.

Takes the hassle out of patient transport. It typically takes a nurse up to 6 ½ minutes to switch a patient from a bedside monitor to a transport monitor and vice versa — and valuable patient data can be lost in the process. By incorporating the Siemens patented PICK AND GO™ concept, INFINITY monitors eliminate the need to change monitors and cables when the patient is moved. Instead, the nurse simply flips a switch and moves the monitor from the DOCKING STATION to the bed — which takes only 20 seconds and ensures uninterrupted monitoring from admission to discharge.

Provides continuous access to patient information hospital-wide and beyond. In the critical care unit, it's imperative that nurses keep a continuous watch over their patients, even while performing other duties. INFINITY Pocket WINVIEW™ employs wireless technology to allow nurses to remotely view patient vital signs from hand-held computers.

Allows equipment to adapt easily to different situations. In the critical care unit, fast access to equipment is crucial, and having one type of system that can be adapted for different patient needs saves both time and money. INFINITY monitors adapt automatically to specific patient needs, parameter choices, and other specific requirements of a given care area. Additionally, hospitals can standardize on a single hardware platform and eliminate the need for separate transport monitors.

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² 2001 ACCN/NTI Meeting; Self-reporting survey of 1,960 responses

Streamlines monitoring of ambulatory patients. As increasingly acute patients are moved to busy intermediate care units, telemetry monitoring must be reliable and dependable. With INFINITY Telemetry with TRUST™*, Siemens is the first to make continuous 12-lead monitoring with ST segment analysis both reliable and practical for ambulatory patients. INFINITY TRUST uses standard electrode placement to reduce training time and increase accuracy of placement. While traditional 12-lead ECG monitoring requires 10 electrodes, TRUST requires only six, and clinicians can monitor from one to 12 leads with the same transmitter. The result is streamlined telemetry monitoring without compromising patient care.

By evaluating equipment from the perspective of those who will use it on the front lines of patient care, hospitals can maximize clinician efficiency — which leads to more productive, satisfied nurses and improved patient care.

Based in Solna, Sweden, and Danvers, MA, the Electromedical Systems Division of Siemens Medical Solutions is a world leader in the provision of life support, anesthesia and patient monitoring systems that can be integrated to create a continuous care system throughout a healthcare facility.

Siemens Medical Solutions of Siemens AG (NYSE: SI) with headquarters in Malvern, Pennsylvania and Erlangen, Germany, is one of the largest suppliers to the healthcare industry in the world. The company is known for bringing together innovative medical technologies, healthcare information systems, management consulting, and support services, to help customers achieve tangible, sustainable, clinical and financial outcomes. From imaging systems for diagnosis, to therapy equipment for treatment, to patient monitors to hearing instruments and beyond, Siemens innovations contribute to the health and well-being of people across the globe, while improving operational efficiencies and optimizing workflow in hospitals, clinics, home health agencies, and doctors' offices. Employing approximately 31,000 people worldwide and operating in more than 120 countries, Siemens Medical Solutions reported sales of 7.6 billion EUR, orders of 8.4 billion EUR and EBIT of 1 billion EUR for fiscal 2002. More information can be obtained by visiting www.siemensmedical.com.

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*INFINITY TELEMETRY with TRUST 12-lead requires FDA 510(k) review and is not yet available commercially in the United States. INFINITY TELEMETRY with TRUST 12-lead is not yet licensed in accordance with Canadian Medical Device Regulations.