



For Immediate Release

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**WATER STREET HEALTHCARE PARTNERS MAKES INVESTMENT
IN ACCESS MEDIQUIP**

CHICAGO, Ill., September 7, 2006 – Water Street Healthcare Partners, a Chicago-based private equity firm focused exclusively on the healthcare industry, announced today that it has completed an investment for an ownership stake in Access MediQuip, LLC, of Houston, Texas. Founded in 1997, Access MediQuip is the first and largest national provider of outsourced medical implantable device management solutions to the healthcare industry.

The company's unique Device Benefit Management™ (DBM) solution includes expertise in insurance authorization, inventory management, equipment procurement and claims processing. These services minimize the financial risk associated with device acquisition costs and increase accessibility to implantable devices for Access' customers by leveraging the company's extensive expertise in all aspects of the distribution, authorization and reimbursement of implantable devices.

Water Street Healthcare Partners has made its investment to help the company expand its business to additional facilities, manufacturers and payors, while also enhancing the company's information technology capabilities to drive greater efficiencies in its service model.

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Water Street will become the company's majority shareholder while the current Access MediQuip management team will retain a significant ownership stake in the company and continue to lead day-to-day operations of the business. Joining the Access MediQuip board of directors will be two seasoned healthcare executives with extensive experience in both the specialty pharmacy and pharmacy benefit management arenas: Jim Connelly, a Water Street Partner and former president of Caremark International, and Steve Cosler, most recently president and chief executive officer of Priority Healthcare Corporation, a leading specialty pharmacy and specialty distribution company acquired by Express Scripts in 2005.

"We chose to partner with Water Street because they demonstrated a strong understanding of our unique and complex business model, and had keen insights into how our market is evolving as we continue to define the device benefit management industry," said Bill Cramer, chief executive officer of Access MediQuip. "We'd reached an inflection point in our growth cycle and were looking for a knowledgeable capital partner with extensive operating experience to help us navigate this exciting time in the development of our industry."

Addressing Water Street's enthusiasm about this latest investment, Ned Villers, a principal in the firm, said: "Our investment in Access MediQuip continues our strategy of investing in market-leading companies in niche healthcare sub-segments. Access MediQuip is uniquely positioned to add value to all of the major participants in the implantable device market."

Access MediQuip is the third investment by Water Street Healthcare Partners in the past four months. "We're off to a fast start in the investment of our current fund and are encouraged by our pipeline of attractive investment opportunities," said Water Street Partner Kip Kirkpatrick. "We are excited to add Access to our growing portfolio of companies and believe our knowledge of the healthcare market will make us good partners with the Access management team. Our extensive network of relationships and our partnership approach continues to attract strong management teams looking for investors who can help them achieve transformational growth and dramatically increase shareholder value."

About Water Street Healthcare Partners

Water Street Healthcare Partners is a Chicago-based private equity firm focused exclusively on building market leadership companies in the healthcare industry. Applying its financial and operating expertise, deep industry knowledge, and extensive network of contacts, Water Street helps companies significantly accelerate growth and create value. The team, which has invested together since 1998, is currently investing its \$370 million fund, the firm's first independent fund. Water Street typically leads investments in transactions from \$50 million to \$500 million in value. The Water Street team's historical investments have included Lakewood Pathology Associates, Facet Technologies, Medex, AbilityOne, and Kendro Laboratory Products. For more information about Water Street, visit www.waterstreetcapital.com.

About Access MediQuip

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, Access MediQuip is the first and largest national provider of outsourced medical implantable device management solutions to the healthcare industry. The company has broad expertise in device pre-authorization, inventory management, equipment procurement, and claims processing in order to eliminate device acquisition costs, minimize financial risk and increase accessibility to implantable devices, including orthopedic implants and ortho biologics, implantable neurostimulators, implantable drug pumps and spinal cord stimulators and spinal implants, among other devices. For more information about Access MediQuip, visit www.accessmediquip.com.

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