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Date: April 22, 2010

Contact: Neil Giacobbi
(212) 681-1380 or (917) 817-0194

U.S. Health and Human Services: “Very Little Progress” Made Fighting Hospital-Acquired Infections

100,000 Patients Die Each Year Study Demonstrates Need for New Technology

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality released a study showing notable increases in hospital-acquired infections (HAI’s).

“These startling results prove that we can and must do better,” said Kurt Grosman, Chairman and CEO of Zimek Technologies, maker of patented micro-misting decontamination equipment used by healthcare providers, law enforcement and first responders throughout the U.S.

According to the H.H.S. study, between 2008 and 2009, bloodstream infections increased 8 percent and post-operative urinary tract infections increased 3.6 percent.

Each year 100,000 patients in the U.S. die from hospital-acquired infections, and 1.7 million patients are infected. HAI’s also cost taxpayers—through higher Medicare, Medicaid and insurance costs—\$45 billion each year, a staggering cost for preventable illnesses.

“Physicians and researchers have focused on better infection remedies such as antibiotics, but clearly this study points to the need for better infection prevention,” Grosman continued. “Hand-washing, and spray-and-wipe surface cleaning, while tried and true, have not kept pace with germs’ new resistance.”

Zimek’s micro misting technology aerosolizes antiseptics that can quickly and effectively disinfect hospitals, care facilities and the vehicles which transport the sick and dying. The germ-killing mist can permeate crevasses and hidden surfaces where super-germs are untouched by standard sanitizing methods.

“Focusing on developing new advanced antibiotics, and treating patients after they’ve been infected with dangerous bacterial infections, while absolutely necessary, presupposes that we must live with germs in hospitals,” Mr. Grosman said. “Zimek’s approach is different, and what I think the results of this H.H.S. study proves, is that healthcare providers must consider different approaches.”

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality published its study last Tuesday April 13, and can be found here: <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2010/qrd09pr.htm>.

The study provides an exhaustive survey of dozens of healthcare measures of quality and performance. The agency explicitly chose to highlight healthcare-acquired infections in its press release—underscoring the magnitude of the challenge HAI’s pose to patients, doctors and U.S. healthcare system.

ZIMEK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

9328 Florida Palm Drive, Tampa, FL 33619

Phone: 1-800-719-4635 ■ Fax: 813-622-7070 ■ Website: www.zimek.com