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**Omron Blood Pressure Monitor Selected for National Study
of Cardiovascular Risk Management in Diabetes Patients**

Monitor's Ability To Average Multiple Readings Automatically Expedites Data Collection

VERNON HILLS, IL (January, 2001) The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health has selected Omron Healthcare's Intellisense™ HEM-907 professional digital blood pressure monitor for use in a 10,000-patient study designed to help reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke in individuals with Type 2 diabetes. The monitor's ability to take a series of readings and average them automatically played a key role in the choice, along with clinical studies validating the accuracy of Omron blood pressure devices.

The ACCORD (Action to Control Cardiovascular Risks in Diabetes) study will test different approaches to controlling glucose, lipids and blood pressure in diabetes patients over a seven-year period. One of the study's major goals is to determine whether physicians can reduce the incidence of cardiovascular events by intensifying control of hypertension. The ability of Omron's monitor to take automated blood pressure readings at pre-set intervals will permit collection of multiple measurements for maximum accuracy, and thereby provide the data required to make sound treatment decisions, without placing excessive time demands on medical staff.

The study's patients are being drawn from more than 65 medical centers across the U.S. and Canada, ranging from facilities at Columbia, Duke, and University of Southern California to the Cleveland Clinic and various Veterans Administration hospitals. Wake Forest University School of Medicine is serving as the coordinating center. Multiple HEM-907 units will be used at each site.

The study is consistent with a clinical advisory issued in May 2000 recommending that physicians pursue a more aggressive treatment approach to lower the blood pressure of patients who have both hypertension and diabetes. Both conditions are independent risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

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With the increased risk for heart attack and stroke in diabetes patients, this study has the potential to have a major impact on the lives of many people, said Vince Viverito, Category Manager, Professional Medical Group, for Omron Healthcare. The fact that our monitor is playing a part in such an important project is a strong endorsement of our technology as well as a source of great satisfaction to the entire Omron organization.

The HEM-907 is the first monitor designed specifically for use in clinical settings by Omron, the world's leading supplier of blood pressure monitors for in-home use. In Average mode, it can take either two or three sequential oscillometric measurements in time intervals ranging from 5 seconds to three minutes without practitioner intervention and then display the results as an average to give a truer picture of a patient's blood pressure.

The HEM-907 also offers Manual and Single modes; a unique Check mode that tests the device's pressure calibration accuracy against a mercury manometer; a unique hide function that makes it possible to conceal the results of the reading from the patient; and the ability to alert practitioners to an irregular pulse. It utilizes Omron's proprietary "Intellisense" technology to automatically inflate to the proper level to maximize patient comfort.

Hypertension affects approximately 40 million Americans and is a major risk factor for death and disability related to coronary heart disease, heart attacks, heart failure, strokes, kidney disease and vascular complications.

Omron Healthcare is the world's leading manufacturer and supplier of home blood pressure monitors. The firm also markets asthma therapy nebulizers, digital ear and stick-type thermometers, body fat analyzers, muscle massagers, pedometers, infant feeding systems and other self-care equipment; and professional medical equipment such as stethoscopes and otoscopes. A subsidiary of the \$5 billion Omron Corporation of Japan, the company's U.S. offices are in Vernon Hills, Illinois. For more information, call Omron Healthcare at 800-634-4350 or visit www.omronhealthcare.com.

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