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AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS GIVE PATIENTS CHOICE

HARRISBURG (November 30, 2007) – The following statement is attributable to Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society (POS) President Jon. B. Tucker, MD in response to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council’s (PHC4) *Financial Analysis 2006: An Annual Report on the Financial Health of Pennsylvania’s Non-GAC Facilities*.

“Ambulatory surgery centers provide cost-effective, patient-centered specialty medical care to patients. Ambulatory surgery centers, or outpatient centers, are more convenient and more efficient than hospitals in many cases.

“More patients each year are choosing outpatient diagnostic and surgical procedures as a result of the technological advancements, efficiencies and savings offered at outpatient centers.

“Ambulatory surgery centers are safe and they provide high quality specialty medical services at lower cost and with greater patient satisfaction than many hospital centers. Just like hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers are licensed by the state and undergo rigorous inspection and reporting requirements.

“Patients and their families consistently report a higher degree of satisfaction with ambulatory surgery centers.

“Technological advancements, faster acting and more effective anesthetics and less invasive techniques allow for a growing range of procedures at ambulatory surgery centers.

“Physicians led the development of ambulatory surgical centers so they could schedule procedures more conveniently for their patients and direct the development of teams of specially-trained and highly-skilled nurses and assistants in order to increase productivity and decrease costs.

“Pennsylvania’s patients are best served by having choices when seeking care. Safe, efficient, physician-driven centers are a vital part of the Commonwealth’s healthcare delivery system.”

POS is a professional medical specialty organization representing more than 900 orthopaedic surgeons across Pennsylvania in advocating for excellence in the practice of orthopaedic medicine. For more information on the importance of bone, joint and muscle health at every age, visit the POS website at www.paorthosociety.org.

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