

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Premier Healthcare Alliance Selects The Exeter Group as the Sole Executive Recruiting Vendor for ASCEND™

*Premier's ASCEND™ members to benefit from The Exeter Group's
healthcare search experience and commitment to providing clients with
highly qualified and diverse candidates*

(Chicago, IL - January 18, 2011) Premier Purchasing Partners, L.P., the group purchasing unit of the Premier healthcare alliance has selected The Exeter Group as the sole staffing source for Premier's ASCEND™ member hospitals. Designed to help healthcare providers **set a new standard in supply chain performance and efficiency**, Premier's ASCEND™ (Accelerated Supply Chain Endeavor) program currently boasts more than 200 facilities that represent greater than \$4 billion in supply chain purchasing volume.

Premier, a quality and cost improvement alliance of more than 2,400 U.S. hospitals and 70,000 other healthcare sites, awarded a three-year contract to The Exeter Group for executive recruiting solutions for a multi-source national agreement as well as being selected for the ASCEND™ program.

Alex duBuclet, Managing Director of The Exeter Group comments, "Search is more than filling roles with qualified candidates. We view search and our role with the ASCEND™ membership as a partnership. We will invest time getting to know the members and their goals." Added duBuclet, "We want to understand how our clients impact the communities they serve today and how different that might look tomorrow."

The Exeter Group regularly conducts searches for general managers, clinicians, healthcare administrators/service line managers, legal/compliance, as well as finance and technology professionals. The Exeter Group has a proven process for identifying, assessing and attracting highly qualified and diverse healthcare professionals.

About The Exeter Group, LLC

The Exeter Group is a retained executive search firm specializing in mid to senior executive level placements within the healthcare, financial services and manufacturing/industrial sectors. The Chicago based firm provides executive recruitment services to world-class healthcare institutions and Fortune 500 companies. The Exeter Group conducts every assignment with integrity. Our firm works diligently on the client's behalf to recruit talented professionals who are capable of succeeding in today's complex and demanding business environment.

About Premier Inc.

The Premier healthcare alliance is more than 2,400 U.S. hospitals and 70,000-plus other healthcare sites working together to improve healthcare quality and affordability. Premier maintains the nation's most comprehensive repository of clinical, financial and outcomes information and operates a leading healthcare purchasing network. A world leader in helping deliver measurable improvements in care, Premier works with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the United Kingdom's National Health Service North West to improve hospital performance. Premier, the recipient of the 2006 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, has offices in San Diego, Charlotte, N.C., Philadelphia and Washington. Follow Premier on Twitter.

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