



News Release

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VITERION TELEHEALTHCARE LAUNCHES VITERION LINK

TARRYTOWN, NY – May 7, 2006: Viterion TeleHealthcare LLC, a Bayer – Panasonic Company, announced the launch of the Viterion® Link Personal TeleHealth System, a low-cost remote patient monitoring solution for patients, providers and payors. The easy-to-use device assists in monitoring a patient's health after post-acute homecare is completed. This allows healthcare providers to oversee a patient's health compliance and reduce the need for emergent care. Viterion Link is also ideal for managing patients in a chronic disease management program.

Viterion Link enables patients to remotely and easily upload data such as blood sugar, weight, or blood pressure and share their health information with healthcare professionals. Viterion Link connects to over twenty different personal monitoring tools, such as blood glucose meters, and communicates the data to authorized members of the healthcare team using standard telephone lines. The patient's healthcare providers access the data through the Internet. Viterion Link utilizes MediCompass Connect™ technology developed by iMetrikus®, a pioneer in Internet-based remote health monitoring systems.

“With this new device, Viterion now offers telehealth solutions for the entire continuum of care - from wellness monitoring to personal health monitoring, disease management, and post-acute homecare,” said Pramod Gaur, President and CEO, Viterion TeleHealthcare. “Current telehealth solutions are typically used in post-acute situations and the most severe cases for a limited time. To facilitate continuum of care and active intervention after the initial episode of care, healthcare needs a full range of telehealth capabilities across all price points.”

Viterion Link is the latest addition to Viterion's product line, which consists of the Viterion 100, Viterion 500 and Viterion 500 TLC Kiosk. Viterion ENET, a web-based network, provides a unified patient record.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 90 million Americans live with chronic disease and account for more than 75% of the nation's medical care cost.¹ Cardiovascular disease and diabetes alone cost more than \$500 billion.²

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Type 2 diabetes has been cited as increasing at epidemic rates.¹ High-risk persons commonly have hypertension and are over-weight. If not detected early, type 2 diabetes may result in complications such as high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke.

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) is the most common hospital discharge diagnosis in patients older than 65 years.² The use of intensive telehealth during the initial episode of home care has the potential to reduce hospital readmission rates by 50-80% in the first 60 days after hospitalization.^{3,4} However, 30-40% of CHF patients are readmitted within 6 months following the initial episode of care.²

The ability for the patient to self-monitor and send their weight, blood pressure and blood sugar results to their healthcare professional enables the provider to offer proactive treatment action as soon as changes in a patient's physiology are detected. This will result in fewer emergency responses and hospitalizations.

About Viterion TeleHealthcare LLC

Viterion TeleHealthcare LLC, a Bayer – Panasonic Company, was established in January 2003 as a joint venture between Bayer HealthCare LLC's Diagnostics Division and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. Based in Tarrytown, New York, Viterion TeleHealthcare LLC markets products and services for the growing telehealth market in the United States. Viterion products offer comprehensive yet flexible solutions, which can be tailored to individual needs.

This news release contains forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by the Bayer Group and Matsushita Group managements. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in our public reports filed with the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (including our Forms 20-F). The companies assume no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.

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1-Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion, Nov 2005

2- Disease and Stroke Statistics--2006 Update. A Report from the American Heart Association Statistics Committee and Stroke Statistics Subcommittee

3- "Managing Congestive Heart Failure Using Home Telehealth", Home Healthcare Nurse. 22(10):719-722, October 2004.

4- American Association of Home Care Telehealth Studies, May 2005