



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 14, 2008

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***Newly Approved Coronary Stent Used for First Time in South Texas at Texsan Heart Hospital***

SAN ANTONIO – The first of a new generation of drug-eluting stents was successfully placed in a patient with coronary artery disease at Texsan Heart Hospital in San Antonio on February 5th, the first use of the device in South Texas since the FDA approved it on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Made by Medtronic, the Endeavor stent is the first drug-eluting stent approved by the FDA since 2004.

Enabling a minimally-invasive alternative to open-heart bypass surgery, stents are tiny wire mesh tubes used to prop open coronary arteries that have been cleared of blockages to restore blood flow to the heart muscle. Drug-eluting stents deliver medication to the artery wall to reduce the chance that the artery will narrow again and require a repeat procedure.

According to Medtronic, extensive clinical research has shown that the Endeavor stent provides a consistent and sustained reduction in the need for repeat procedures compared to a bare-metal stent, while also maintaining an excellent safety profile.

“Because of Texsan Heart Hospital’s focus on cardiovascular disease, they were naturally among the first places in Texas and the country to use our new stent, which represents a significant advance in the treatment of coronary artery disease,” said Sean Salmon, vice president and general manager of Medtronic’s Coronary and Peripheral Vascular business. “The physicians and staff at Texsan are highly skilled in cardiac care, so it’s no surprise that the stent was delivered to the target site without incident. Most importantly, we understand that the patient is doing well.”

Texsan Heart Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Craig Desmond added, “We are proud to be associated with the physicians who are spearheading these technology advancements. Our nursing teams and technologists share a common passion for cardiac care and I feel our patient-focused model of care helps contribute to better patient outcomes.”

Texsan Heart Hospital is located at 6700 IH 10 West and Crossroads Boulevard. It is part of a family of cardiac centers owned and managed by MedCath Corporation. Texsan Heart Hospital is an entire hospital dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of America’s number one killer – heart disease. Texsan opened in January 2004 and features comprehensive inpatient and outpatient cardiac care and a 24-hour full service Heart Emergency Center.

For more information, contact Wayne Kipp, vice president of business development, at 210.736.8003. For additional information about Texsan Heart Hospital, visit its Web site at [www.TexsanHeartHospital.com](http://www.TexsanHeartHospital.com).

