

19 September 2006

Global Health Partner PLC ("GHP")

## **GLOBAL HEALTH PARTNER ENTERS THE AREA OF OBESITY TREATMENT**

Global Health Partner (GHP) has decided to make obesity treatment its fourth Service Line and intends to open a number of clinics for specialist treatment of morbid obesity in Europe over the coming years. For this purpose, GHP has entered into a ten year development agreement with Sahlgrenska University Hospital (SU). The objective of the project is to design a model for the optimal treatment of obesity for this exposed patient group.

Obesity, clinically defined as a condition where an individual has a Body Mass Index  $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$ , has increased constantly during the last 20 years and today it is estimated that 20-30% of the European population is obese. These individuals are exposed to a severely increased risk of contracting illness with consequences such as increased absence from work, early retirement and an inferior quality of life. In many cases, severe obesity results in premature death.

Recently, data from the Swedish Obesity Study was presented including over 6,000 patients, some of whom had been monitored for 20 years. The study confirmed that treatment of obesity, including permanent weight reduction, will not only decrease the risk of complications, but also increase both quality of life and life expectancy. Consequently, there is a significant need for specialist treatment centres that offer a quality assured, full range treatment programme for patients suffering from obesity.

For decades, SU has developed a unique knowledge of the health risks of morbid obesity, as well as an understanding of the diagnostic and treatment methods that give the best long term results. In 2006 a decision was taken by the hospital to make a long term commitment to this clinical area by the establishment of a specialised Obesity Centre, which is currently under development.

GHP believes that this market is severely underserved and that demand is likely to increase. Therefore we have decided to make obesity treatment our fourth Service Line and intend to open a number of clinics for specialist treatment of morbid obesity in Europe over the coming years. The collaboration between SU and GHP aims to develop clinical protocols for quality assured, best practice, and measured treatment of patients suffering from obesity. This will be used both by SU and by GHP's future clinics. The development work will be financed by GHP and will mainly be performed by researchers and other medical staff at SU. In addition to securing medical best practice, special focus will be directed towards process optimization and development of IT support. The target is for the clinical protocols to be completed and implemented by SU and GHP as early as spring 2007.

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