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**PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE IN EXTENDED CARE HELPS NURSING
HOME FACILITIES DIAGNOSE, MANAGE AND TREAT URINARY
INCONTINENCE.**

Redmond, WA, June 28, 2000 – Diagnostic Ultrasound Corporation announces the rollout of a *Program of Excellence in Extended Care*. The Program that will help nursing home facilities diagnose, manage and treat geriatric urinary incontinence (UI) was developed in cooperation with Diane Kaschak Newman, R.N.C., M.S.N., C.R.N.P., F.A.A.N. and involves the utilization of Diagnostic Ultrasound's BladderScan™ instrument.

UI is the second leading cause of institutionalization of the elderly and is seen in 50% of nursing home residents. The total costs related to UI are staggering and are conservatively estimated at \$28 billion annually.

The *Program of Excellence* is designed to assist nursing home staff in maximizing residents' bladder function and is based on HCFA (Health Care Financing Administration) regulations for the assessment and treatment of persons with bladder dysfunction. The program involves toileting assistance programs, behavior modification strategies and bladder rehabilitation techniques.

According to program developer Diane Newman, "Unlike popular belief, incontinence is not an ordinary and inevitable part of the aging process. We have learned that urinary incontinence can be reversible and can definitely be controlled, provided that the causes of the incontinence are thoroughly diagnosed, and an effective bladder training program is put in place. Our program integrates a new technology for assessing bladder volume into standard medical concepts and is based on the newest theoretical and practical knowledge."

Bladder volume measurement is an essential factor in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients with UI.

Understanding bladder capacity and voided urine volumes can direct resident care and management. This information allows the staff to make informed decisions about care of residents with common bladder disorders found in the extended care setting: urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, urinary retention and urinary tract infections.

All residents with UI must undergo an assessment of voiding habits using a bladder diary that is kept for at least three days. The bladder diary will identify those residents who may benefit from bladder retraining programs. By providing a noninvasive bladder volume assessment and a printed output, the BladderScan™ instrument is very helpful in determining voiding patterns and incontinence episodes so that a treatment approach can be developed. While the symptoms of commonly seen bladder disorders may appear much the same, their underlying physiology can be very different and require different treatment plans. Measuring bladder volume allows for differential diagnoses to be made and incontinence caused by more severe problems such as obstruction can be determined.

Once the type of incontinence has been diagnosed, a treatment plan based on the resident's personal bladder habits can be established. Treatment plans may include elements such as toileting assistance, habit training, prompted voiding and bladder retraining. The BladderScan instrument plays an important role by giving feedback about the actual bladder volume to both the caregiver and resident. "It is amazing how much difference it makes when you can actually show a number on the screen instead of having to go on a hunch when a resident complains of bladder fullness, or claims that their bladder is empty after a toileting procedure," says Newman. "It takes a lot of the guess-work out."

About Diagnostic Ultrasound

Diagnostic Ultrasound Corporation is a rapidly growing manufacturer and supplier of medical instruments with annual sales revenue of \$17 million in 1999 and 130 employees. The company serves customers through its own sales organization in the USA and an international distributor network covering more than 30 countries worldwide. Information about Diagnostic Ultrasound and its products can be found at the corporate website <http://www.dxu.com> or by contacting Diagnostic Ultrasound at 18109 NE 76th Street, Redmond, WA 98052 , tel: (800) 331-2313 or (425) 867-1348, fax: (425) 883-2896.

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Note to Editor: A copy of the Program of Excellence instruction manual is available upon request from Diagnostic Ultrasound Corp.